



DEMAND FOR END TO SANCTIONS: Thousands of Iraqi women holding children stage a protest in Baghdad on Tuesday demanding an end to the four-year old international sanctions imposed against their country following its invasion of Kuwait. The protest, organised by the Iraqi Women's Federation, was held to attract the attention of the U.N. Fourth Women's Conference being held in Beijing, China (see page one) (AFP photo)

Paris aid to Algiers will continue – ex-spy chief

PARIS (AFP) — France's former counter-espionage chief believes Paris will continue backing the Algerian government economically and even militarily to stop the country turning fundamentalist, the popular daily *Le Parisien* said Tuesday.

Yves Bonnet, a deputy for the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF), said in an interview with the newspaper that France would maintain its support for the military-backed regime despite the recent spate of bombs in France suspected to be the work of Algerian fundamentalists.

Mr. Bonnet said the bombs — which included a metro blast July 25 which killed seven and injured scores more, and another explosion near the Arc de Triomphe three weeks later which injured 17 — were the work of desperate fundamentalists seeking to soften French support for the government of President Liamaine Zeroual in Algiers.

"Fundamentalists want to stir up public opinion and make it put pressure on the French government with the message: 'Keep your distance from the Algerian authorities because we've had enough of being targeted,'" Mr. Bonnet said.

Sunday another bomb misfired at a Paris market injuring four, while a week earlier, a device was discovered and disabled on the TGV line linking the French capital to Lyon.

Armed fundamentalists launched a civil war against the regime in Algiers after the government annulled January 1992 elections which the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The resultant civil strife — which has also included a clutch of deadly bombs in Algiers in recent weeks — and a governmental crackdown on armed groups has left more than 30,000 people dead.

But despite the conflict, Mr. Bonnet, who chairs parliament's Franco-Algerian friendship group, said he believed the fundamentalist threat was more serious than that posed by the military-backed government.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	
14:30	Problem Child
14:30	Super Clowns
15:00	Teenager's World
15:30	Amazing Stories
16:00	Families
17:00	Children's Programme — Raham
17:30	Telefilm "Les Adventures De Nelly"
18:00	Burner
18:15	News in French
18:30	Ushatun
18:35	News Headlines
18:45	Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
19:00	Anything for a Laugh
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	The Heart of Hearing
22:00	News in English
22:25	Prism
22:45	The Blue Skies
23:00	Shakazulu

PRAYER TIMES

04:45	Fajr
06:00	Sunrise / Dhuha
12:30	Dhuhr
16:00	Asr
18:30	Maghreb
21:15	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweileh, Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632700
St. Joseph Church Tel: 621450
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440

De Salle Church Tel: 661757
Terrassonne Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541

Anglican Church Tel: 630851. Tel:

Apostolic Catholic Church Tel:

771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel:

775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751.

Assman

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel:

824328

German-speaking Evangelical

Church Tel: 661795

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel: 675641.

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel: 811295

Temple of the Holy Cross Tel:

632843

Yahweh

4 World News

Sri Lankan rebels say passengers of hijacked ferry will be freed today

COLOMBO (AP) — A week after seizing scores of hostages from a passenger ferry, Tamil rebels announced Tuesday they will free most of their captives within 24 hours.

In a broadcast on their clandestine radio, the rebels said they will take the passengers to their stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula and hand them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross Wednesday.

It did not say whether all 136 passengers who were on the ferry would be freed. It also did not mention the fate of the eight crew members of the Iris Moana, which they seized on Aug. 28.

Among the passengers were three newborn babies and 12 other children. The rebel broadcast was monitored by civilians in northern Sri Lanka.

Most of the passengers were believed to have disembarked from the ferry last week and were taken to a guerrilla base, but government officials don't know how many people were still on board the vessel.

The ferry was anchored off the coast of Mullaitivu, 280 kilometres northeast of Colombo, and the rebels have cut off communications to it.

Deputy Defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte warned Monday that the rebels would not be allowed to sail

the ferry and its passengers to Jaffna, 75 kilometres northwest across the Jaffna Lagoon.

The military Monday shelled rebel boats moving between the guerrilla base and the ferry, a military official said Tuesday.

None of the rebel craft were hit by the shelling from a military base four kilometres from the ferry, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"The shells were fired away from the ferry so that the passengers would not be in danger," said the official.

Last Tuesday, the separatists boarded the ferry and used it as bait to lure naval gunboats into a battle. Two navy ships were destroyed, apparently killing all 21 sailors.

Red Cross and other officials said they could not confirm a report that two crew members were killed some time during the last week, and they believed the report was incorrect.

All of the passengers are Tamils, but the rebels say some belong to the Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party, a former Tamil separatist group that joined forces with the military to fight the guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Four of the crew members also were Sinhalese. The rebels have been

fighting for a homeland in the north and east for 12 years to redress what they see as discrimination by the Sinhalese, who control the government and the military.

More than 36,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Meanwhile a top police officer has been transferred over suspicion that his elite commandos strangled 21 Tamil civilians in their office in the capital and dumped the mutilated bodies in lakes, officials said Tuesday.

Police have not uncovered the motive for the killings. But they occurred against the background of the resurgence of the 12-year-old war against guerrillas fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minorities.

The first bodies of men aged 30-40 years began to appear in lakes in and around the capital after the rebels broke a three-month truce and pulled out of peace talks on April 19.

Most of the bodies were nude. Some had mutilated genitals. Others were weighted down with rocks to prevent them floating.

Human rights activists have repeatedly expressed concern over the disappearance of minority Tamils while in police custody, extra-judicial executions and arbitrary arrests.

Police have detained thousands of Tamil civilians in Colombo after the rebels resumed fighting. But most of them were released after their identities were established.

The civilians were abducted from cheap hotels or while travelling in Colombo during the last four months.

They were suspected to be

Tamil rebels fighting for a homeland.

The civilians were taken to the Special Task Force Headquarters in the capital, and tortured for five or six days. They were then thrown into an unused toilet with plastic handcuffs around their necks, which strangled them to death.

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Officers lead away an injured protester after riot police broke up an anti-Harmoko demonstration near police headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia (AFP, photo)

Indonesian police break up protest over minister's insult to Islam

JAKARTA (AFP) —

Indonesian anti-riot police broke up a demonstration by about 100 youths outside the attorney-general's office Tuesday demanding that Information Minister Harmoko be brought to trial for insulting Islam.

The protesters, from the Assembly for the Safeguarding of People's Sovereignty (MPKR) chanted "Allah akbar (God is Great)... Bring Harmoko to trial."

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offence in Indonesia where almost 90 per cent of Indonesia's 190 million people are Muslim.

Many protesters have contrasted the reaction to Mr. Harmoko's offence and that against prominent seer Permai for allegedly comparing Prophet Mohammad to a dictator.

The country's highest authority on Islam, the Indonesian Council of Ulamas (MUI) has accused Mr. Permai of blasphemy, but has accepted Mr. Harmoko's apology.

Mr. Permai could be jailed for one year if convicted. Mr. Bintang, a member of the Muslim United Development Party (PPP) currently being investigated for allegedly insulting President Suharto, told AFP that "our law is only for the common people. For the bureaucrats, they are untouchable. Justice is not for all."

"Apologies are apologies, but justice should be the important one," former parliamentarian Sri Bintang Pamungkas said at the demonstration which included women wearing the Islamic jilbab headdress.

Insulting Islam is a serious

Dole calls for English-only education

INDIANAPOLIS (R) —

Senate majority leader Bob Dole, seeking to regain momentum in his 1996 presidential bid, called Monday for English to be recognised as the only official language of the United States and for multi-lingual education to end.

As millions of American children return to the classroom after their summer vacations, Mr. Clinton is marking the end of his vacation before returning to Washington to tackle a fall agenda brimming with problems such as how to balance the budget and end the war in Bosnia.

Before returning to the White House, Mr. Clinton is also scheduled to speak to the student body and faculty of Abraham Lincoln Middle School in Selma, California, a small rural town south of Fresno in the central valley.

With these appearances, the president is clearly signalling that support for education will be a key goal as he fights Republican efforts to cut government spending.

"Educators, students and parents need to be aware that our nation's investments in education — in our children's future — are under direct attack by the Republican majority in the House," Sen. Dole said.

Sen. Dole, 72, leads the field for the Republican presidential nomination by a wide margin. But his campaign has struggled recently

after a non-binding straw poll in Iowa last month in which he unexpectedly ended up in a tie with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm with only 24 per cent of the vote. Iowa next February will stage the first binding vote of the 1996 campaign.

Meanwhile California Gov. Pete Wilson, one of eight other candidates for the Republican nomination, welcomed Sen. Dole to the cause of making English the official language of the United States. Mr. Wilson said in a statement he had called on Congress to do so as a U.S. senator from California in August 1986.

The Iowa straw poll set off a wave of media articles expressing doubt that Sen. Dole had the ideological fire to unite the Republican Party and the vision to win the presidency.

Conservatives who control the party are particularly anxious about Sen. Dole's right-wing credentials, despite the candidate's frequent bows in their direction.

The Indianapolis speech, and another Tuesday in Chicago in which Sen. Dole is expected to outline con-

servative tax ideas, were intended to quell such doubts, campaign officials said.

Sen. Dole, a World War II hero, received an enthusiastic response for a 10,000-strong audience of fellow military veterans in Indianapolis for a speech laced with patriotic pride in which he also pledged to pass a constitutional amendment in the Senate by the end of the year outlawing burning or desecration of the national flag.

Sen. Dole also renewed his assault on Hollywood for spreading sex and violence. But his main targets were educators seeking to re-examine U.S. history and boost the teaching of other cultures and languages.

"We must stop the practice of multi-lingual education as a means of instilling ethnic pride, or as a therapy for low self-esteem or out of elitist guilt over a culture built on the traditions of the West," Sen. Dole said.

He said there was a shocking and deliberate campaign by liberal educators at all levels to disparage and undermine American and traditional Western values.

L. American presidents gather to discuss corruption, drug trafficking

QUITO (AP) — Presidents

from 12 Latin American nations opened a two-day summit Monday in this Andean capital to debate poverty, drug trafficking and official mismanagement.

With corruption at an all-time-high, a nationwide poll released Monday showed Latin Americans ranked dishonest officials as the region's No. 1 problem.

"Corruption, unfortunately, has become a widespread social illness," Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran-Ballén admitted in an address opening the summit.

Thirty-eight per cent ranked corruption as Latin America's No. 1 problem, while government mismanagement came in as the second most serious issue with 13 per cent, according to the poll of 10,000 people in 23 countries. Drug trafficking was third with 11 per cent.

The poll was conducted simultaneously by independent public opinion firms in the different countries and had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 per cent. Cedatos, the polling firm in charge of surveying Ecuador, released the results in Quito Monday.

Corruption in the region has intensified due to the large amounts of money managed by drug trafficking cartels and to the sudden wealth from oil exports enjoyed by countries like Venezuela and Ecuador.

"Although drugs are not the only source of corruption, they are the principal one for countries like Colombia afflicted by that plague," Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo has said.

In Ecuador, former President Osvaldo Hurtado said, "a culture of easy money and illegal enrichment" was born when the country began exporting oil in the early 1970s.

Another man's shirt was

Jordan Times, September 6, 1995

Charlie Sheen
marries model

MALIBU, California (AP) —

After a whirlwind courtship, actor Charlie Sheen has married his sweetheart of six weeks, model Donna Peele. Hours before the wedding, Sheen admitted to suffering a bad case of prenuptial jitters, but kept the faith in his dash to the altar. "My research and travel has shown me... people who court for a decade usually have a marriage that lasts only a couple of years," Sheen said. The couple were married at sunset at the Saddle Rock Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, said Sheen's publicist Jeff Ballard. Sheen, who also turned 30 Sunday, met Ms. Peele, 25, while filming a commercial in New York City. It's the first marriage for both. Sheen has starred in such films as *Platoon*, *Wall Street* and *Hot Shots*. His latest publicity, however, has been in a courtroom, where he sweated through a videotape he made for a federal jury in the trial of Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss. Sheen admitted that he had ordered Ms. Fleiss' call girls at least 27 times, running up a tab of more than \$50,000.

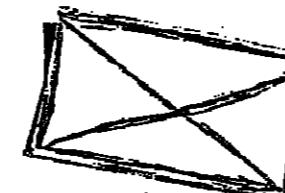
Runaway, 12, spends \$10,000 at Disneyland

PARIS (AFP) — A 12-year-old runaway who stole 70,000 francs (\$14,000) from his parents spent most of the cash at Disneyland Paris, hiring a room at the theme park's most expensive hotel for 10 days. As his parents searched for him, placing missing person advertisements in newspapers, Lamine Ghalimi repeatedly visited all the attractions at the theme park east of Paris and took a 2,000-Franc (\$400-) room at its most expensive hotel, Disneyland Hotel, the daily *Parisien Libere* reported. Lamine, who took the cash from the till of his parents' Paris hotel, told the receptionist, "I'm here with my mother but she is busy and told me to take the room," the report said. When Disneyland security staff finally became suspicious of Lamine, he had only 20,000 francs (\$4,000) left on him. Police did not specify his nationality. When he grew tired of Disneyland, Lamine decided to visit a nearby rival, the Asterix Theme Park, hiring a 5,000-francs (\$1,000)-a-day stretch limousine, again without arousing suspicion, the report said. His mother was forgiving about Lamine's escapade. "He always seems sure of himself and people believe him. The main thing is he came to no harm. He knows it was a very naughty thing to do," she said.

Book backs theory Tchaikovsky was gay 'martyr'

LONDON (AFP) — A new biography of Peter Tchaikovsky has backed the theory that the Russian composer did not die of cholera as was officially recorded but committed suicide, the victim of the anti-gay climate of 19th century Russia. Anthony Holden, author of *Tchaikovsky* published this week in London, told the Sunday *Telegraph* newspaper: "He didn't want his devoted public nor posterity to know he was gay" and said he committed suicide by taking arsenic after being "caught." In the 19th century, homosexuality was illegal. The rule was don't get caught. He was caught by the uncle of a Russian nobleman who complained to the czar he (Tchaikovsky) described it (being gay) as unnatural and a vice," the biographer said. "Fancy rumour and gossip," retorted Alexander Poznansky, another Tchaikovsky specialist, who discounts the suicide theory while accepting the composer's homosexuality. Poznansky, a Russian émigré who teaches at Yale, is the author of a 1991 biography, and is preparing a second book on the subject.

World News



Jordan Times, September 6, 1995 5

N.Ireland Protestants to pick new leader

BELFAST (AP) - Ulster Unionists have spent a generation condemning the IRA from a distance. This week, with peace talks in the balance, they may pick a leader willing to meet the enemy face to face.

The leadership election Friday for Northern Ireland's largest party will help determine whether the prevailing open-ended ceasefires can be turned into a solid peace.

Peace talks simply won't work without the constructive participation of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the dominant pro-British bloc since Britain founded this Protestant-majority state in 1920. The question on every commentator's lips: will the new leader sit down with Irish Republican Army (IRA) supporters?

Three of the five Protestant candidates say they would - if the IRA commits itself to disarm. Two remain so suspicious of the IRA's year-old truce that they believe the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party still must be "decontaminated" by time.

There's no clear favourite to succeed James Molyneaux, the 75-year-old bachelor who resigned earlier this month. A self-described "dull dog," he kept the party together for 16 years by shunning innovation.

Last year's truces by the Catholic-based IRA and Protestant "loyalist" extremists have created space for negotiations among the factions in Northern Ireland's political-religious conflict.

The British and Irish governments, keen to get all sides around a negotiating table soon, see the two most flexible candidates as Ken Maginnis and John Taylor - both 57 and both survivors of IRA assassination attempts.

The core of the party traditionally demands a leader who senses when to say no. For them, the fact that either government privately roots for Mr. Taylor or Mr. Maginnis is sufficient reason to vote for someone else.

Mr. Maginnis, a former British army officer, has developed friendly contacts with the predominantly Catholic south. He often travels south to cheer the all-Ireland rugby team and socialises with Dublin politicians, offending colleagues who brand the Irish Republic a haven for IRA terrorists.

Mr. Maginnis last year debated Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams on CNN's "Larry King Live," the first party member to do so. But he refused to shake hands and snubbed Mr. Adams' attempts at first-name friendliness.

The British government prefers Mr. Taylor, a cherubic businessman who showed his maverick streak when he quickly declared the IRA's ceasefire was "for good" - the most senior Ulster Unionist to do so. Mr. Maginnis, by contrast, frequently predicts its imminent breakdown.

IRA gunmen shot Mr. Taylor through the face in 1972 when he was a cabinet member of the former Protestant-dominated Northern Ireland government. He required extensive plastic surgery.

Today, he owns newspapers in Northern Ireland and has built substantial business contacts in the south.

Mr. Maginnis and Mr. Taylor would like to break the party's fundamental links with the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's main Protestants-only fraternal group, to attract Catholic support for the first time.

That would be no easy task. Of about 860 members of the governing Ulster Unionist Council who will elect the new leader, about 130 are directly selected by the Orange Order. Most of the rest are Orange Order members.



U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton speaks at the Women and Health seminar sponsored by the World Health Organization at the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (AFP photo)

Hillary Clinton attacks China on human rights

BEIJING (R) — U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attacked China Tuesday, saying women taking part in a grassroots forum near Beijing had been prohibited from fully taking part and expressing themselves.

"It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organisations, who wished to participate in this conference, have not been able to attend — or have been prohibited from fully taking part," she told the U.N. fourth World Conference on Women.

"Let me be clear. Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organise and debate openly," she told a plenary session.

"It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments," she said in a hard-hitting speech clearly directed at host China, accused of harassing participants with heavy-handed surveillance and security measures at the grassroots Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Forum on Women.

"It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them, or denying them their freedom or dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions," she told the world's biggest United Nations conference.

The issue of police harassment and surveillance has marred much of the grassroots Forum on Women that

Japanese police to seek anti-cult lawyer's remains

TOKYO (R) — Some 1,000 police officers will begin search Wednesday for the remains of a lawyer, his wife and infant son who disappeared six years ago after helping defectors from the Aum doomsday cult, police said on Tuesday.

Accompanied by forensic scientists, they would comb three areas in the mountains of central Japan for the remains of Tsutsumi Sakamoto, 35 when he disappeared, his wife Satoko, 29, and their one-year-old son Tatsuhiko, a police official said.

He said testimony from cult followers revealed that Sakamoto's body was buried in mountains in Niigata, a prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast, while Satoko's was dumped in a valley in neighbouring Toyama and Tatsuhiko's remains were left in marshlands in Nagano.

The three disappeared from their flat in Yokohama in 1989, after Sakamoto had become active in a group of lawyers helping defectors from the Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth sect). Suspicion immediately fell on the cult. It has always

denied involvement, but was widely believed to have felt threatened by the lawyer's activities. A badge worn by its senior members was left behind in Sakamoto's home.

However, though the Aum never explained how the badge was left there, police did not officially link it to the disappearance until they began investigations into the sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in March.

Following raids of cult facilities and a round-up of its leading members, public prosecutors charged followers with a series of violent crimes — the subway gassing, which killed 11 people and made another 5,500 ill, a separate sarin attack in a mountain resort last year that killed seven people, several kidnappings, and producing illegal drugs.

According to reports by newspapers and the Kyodo News Agency — based on briefings open only to the domestic media — Aum members arrested on these and related charges admitted to murdering the family.

Lebed lends star power to Russian nationalists

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's most popular general traded in his uniform for a suit and tie and took his place among leaders of a nationalist bloc that kicked off its campaign for December parliamentary elections.

Retired Gen. Alexander Lebed, the 45-year-old dissident commander with a basso voice and a bulldog face, has become one of the more formidable figures in Russian politics, polls show.

A harsh critic of President Boris Yeltsin and a defender of the rights of ethnic Russians, Gen. Lebed is the best-known name on the ticket led by Yuri Skokov, a former top Yeltsin aide who fell out with the president in 1993 and maintains close ties to big industry.

Analysts say Gen. Lebed's star power and Mr. Skokov's connections could help their movement, the Congress of Russian Communities, find support among Russians nostalgic for the days when they were the unquestioned leaders of a superpower.

Writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn has reportedly signed on as a political adviser.

"The patriotic idea is now in great demand," the daily Komsomolsk said in a weekend editorial that gave the

alliance better-than-average odds among the many political movements trying to harness that idea.

Leaders of the bloc came out hitting at a news conference Monday.

They criticised the pro-government movement led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at every opportunity, accusing it of allowing widespread corruption, the sell-off of Russia's wealth, the humiliation of Russians in other former Soviet republics, and the carnage of war in Chechnya.

Gen. Lebed deserved some of his harshest remarks for NATO, condemning its expansion into Eastern Europe and its air strikes on Bosnian Serbs.

"Now that the Soviet Union no longer exists, (NATO's) fist threatens Russia because there is no other enemy there," he said.

"This passionate desire to expand and monopolise security in the whole world could have only one result — that sometime in the future, Russia would renounce all its previous agreements and take up a strategy of containment."

Gen. Lebed, an Afghan War veteran, became a

household name when his 14th Army restored order after a 1992 separatist rebellion in the trans-Dniester region of the former Soviet Republic of Moldova.

Popular among his troops, he freely criticised the army brass and Mr. Yeltsin himself, especially over Chechnya, and resigned this spring when the army decided to scale back his command.

Although virtually every election bloc in Russia now has a general on the ticket, few have Gen. Lebed's notoriety.

Considered a presidential contender, he has topped other major candidates in recent popularity polls, including one by the Russian Centre for Public Opinion and Market Research. The group released a new survey Monday asking what people found most attractive about Gen. Lebed.

The most popular response was, "He is capable of putting things in order."

But Gen. Lebed has little experience in politics, and many Russians are uncomfortable with his military machismo.

"These manners, including an army sense of humour, are highly typical

News Agency.

The current number is around 1.9 million personnel, according to the latest figures.

Gen. Grachev, who was in the far southeastern Russian city of Khabarovsk, near the Chinese border, said reform of the armed services was going well.

"We succeeded in stopping the process of deterioration of our battle readiness," he said.

Military planners aimed to create new, mobile units to meet today's conditions, he said.

The Russian Armed Forces, particularly during its campaign in the rebel Republic of Chechnya, have been criticised as outdated, badly trained and lacking innovation.

There are reportedly chronic shortages of food, ammunition and other supplies.

In June last year, President Yeltsin said the armed forces should be reduced to 1.5 million men and women, although he did not give a deadline.

Police: Suicide bomber killed Punjab's top official

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Punjab state's top elected official was probably killed by a rebel suicide bomber, who detonated explosives strapped to his body, the state's police chief said Monday.

Earlier, police had said that Thursday's blast in Chandigarh, Punjab's capital city, killed Chief Minister Beant Singh and 14 members of his staff, was caused by a car bomb that was detonated by a remote control device.

The explosion occurred as Mr. Singh stepped into his official bulletproof car parked in the porch of his office.

"We are almost reasonably convinced that a human bomb was used to cause the explosion," Police Chief K.P.S. Gill told reporters in Chandigarh.

Although Sikhs rebels have used different varieties of bombs and weapons such as rocket-launchers, this was the first case of an attack by a suicide bomber.

Babbar Khalsa International, a Sikh separatist group that still operates in the state where troops have successfully crushed a decade-old insurrection, claimed responsibility for the attack last week.

The group, one of the fiercest and most well-armed, was known to have expertise in handling explosives. It was among the dozens of militant groups fighting for an independent homeland for the Sikh religious minority. Most of India's 20 million Sikhs live in Punjab.

The body of a person, the police suspect to be the assassin, has been found, Mr. Gill said. This was the only body found from the blast site outside the state's main government building that had not been identified, he said.

He said that while talks were progressing, there had been no major development in the hostage ordeal, which entered its third month Monday. "There is no breakthrough yet," he said.

Police had earlier presumed that the body was that of a member of Mr. Beant Singh's staff that they were unable to identify because it was badly mutilated.

Coal mine blast kills 15 in Siberia

MOSCOW (AP) — An explosion at a coal mine in Siberia caused a cage bringing workers down to the pit's surface to collapse, killing 15 miners, a news agency reported.

The explosion at the Perovomaiskaya Mine in Kemerovo, 3,000 kilometres east of Moscow, occurred early Monday, the Interfax News Agency reported.

The shock wave from the blast destroyed a large production facility situated on the surface, ITAR-TASS said.

Work at the site of the explosion has been halted two weeks ago after experts

warned of imminent dangers, it added.

According to Interfax, rescuers managed to save 66 of the 81 miners who were in the shaft at the time of the accident. Those killed were in a cage that takes workers below the surface, Interfax said.

Russia's coal industry is plagued by accidents and problems related to poor

work conditions and non-payment of wages.

On Monday, more than two dozen miners at Gukovo in the southern Russian region of Rostov began a hunger strike to demand that the government pay them back wages amounting to at least 27 billion rubles, ITAR-TASS said.

Russian troops. "The Russian generals let us have these, and then we shoot at the Russians with them," he said.

One customer said he would keep carrying weapons until Russian troops left as promised. Alid, whose personal weapon was a sawn-off pump action Winchester shotgun, said Russia would never be able to disarm Chechnya peacefully.

"There's no going back to those days. Look at what they did to us in '44," he said. In 1944, Stalin tried to wipe Chechnya off the map by deporting every man, woman and child to Central Asia.

"They won't be able to do this again," Alid said.

"Weapons are our national costume," added a customer.

Everybody's attention was suddenly diverted. A car with black-tinted windows had pulled up and a man with a beard and a shaved head was opening the boot. Inside: a dozen anti-tank rockets.

It said the explosion was planned so as to open new coal faces, but a report from the ITAR-TASS news agency stated that it came unexpectedly.

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Russia's coal industry is plagued by accidents and problems related to poor

work conditions and non-payment of wages.

Under an accord signed a month ago to demilitarise the devastated Caucasus republic, Chechens are to give up their weapons to the

Russians in exchange for cash.

The Russians are to destroy the surrendered weapons and withdraw nearly all their troops from Chechnya.

In the meantime, carrying weapons is strictly forbidden and Russian troops inspect cars at checkpoints all over the republic.

So far about 1,000 weapons have been handed in, Russian officials said.

Moscow says this is not nearly enough, but Chechen independence fighters argue that almost no Russian troops have withdrawn.

The dispute is not affecting the arms markets of southern Chechnya. In fact, business is roaring, with gunmen using the cash paid by the Russians for surrendered rifles to buy better guns at the market.

The dealers, mostly stocky men with short hair cuts, displayed their weapons at a spot about one kilometre from a road frequently used by Russian soldiers.

"We hand over the .762s because there's almost no ammunition left for them. In the market we buy .545s and you can find as much ammunition for them as you want," said Ruslan, who also would not give his last name.

Although weapons are being handed in and Chechnya's borders are sealed by thousands of Russian troops, some prices at the arms markets are barely changed from before the war started in December last year, suggesting a good supply.

"Here, you can get an

SRIJAGAR, India (R) — Indian authorities said Tuesday that negotiations with separatist guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir were progressing and they still hoped to win the release of the tourists.

"Things are moving," said K.B. Jandial, a spokesman for the government of Jammu and Kashmir state. "We are working towards a positive development."

He denied newspaper reports that talks with Al-Faran militants had broken down, saying officials had contacted an unidentified intermediary Monday for a fresh round of discussions.

The body of a person, the police suspect to be the assassin, has been found, Mr. Gill said. This was the only body found from the blast site outside the state's main government building that had not been identified, he said.

He said that while talks were progressing, there had been no major development in the hostage ordeal, which entered its third month Monday. "There is no breakthrough yet," he said.

Asked to comment on the tone of Monday's talk, he said: "It was OK, not bad."

American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert

and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were kidnapped while trekking in the mountains of southern Kashmir in early July.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe, was found beheaded on Aug. 13.

A note found near his body quoted

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New era for RJ

OUR NATIONAL airline, Royal Jordanian (RJ) has been debt ridden for too long. No matter how profitable its operations worldwide are, it will remain in the red after it deducts some \$42 million annually to service its internal and external debts. This amount eats up most of the revenues of RJ and undermines all its attempts to stand on its own feet.

In order to alleviate the problem, the RJ privatisation committee has recently submitted to the government several recommendations.

The rescue plan envisaged calls for, inter alia, increasing the airline's capital and repaying its internal debts (to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and the Social Security Corporation) by the government.

While we understand that the government may have its own ideas about ways to solve the problem, and its own perceptions of the cumulative effect that has put the airline in the dire condition it now finds itself, we all must recognise the fact that RJ has to be supported if it is to continue serving the country's strategic interests.

We are now entering a new era of peace in the Middle East, when tourism and travel are expected to contribute heavily to our economic development. RJ thus cannot be expected to perform this task without earmarking additional funds for modernising its ageing fleet and expanding it to the extent necessary.

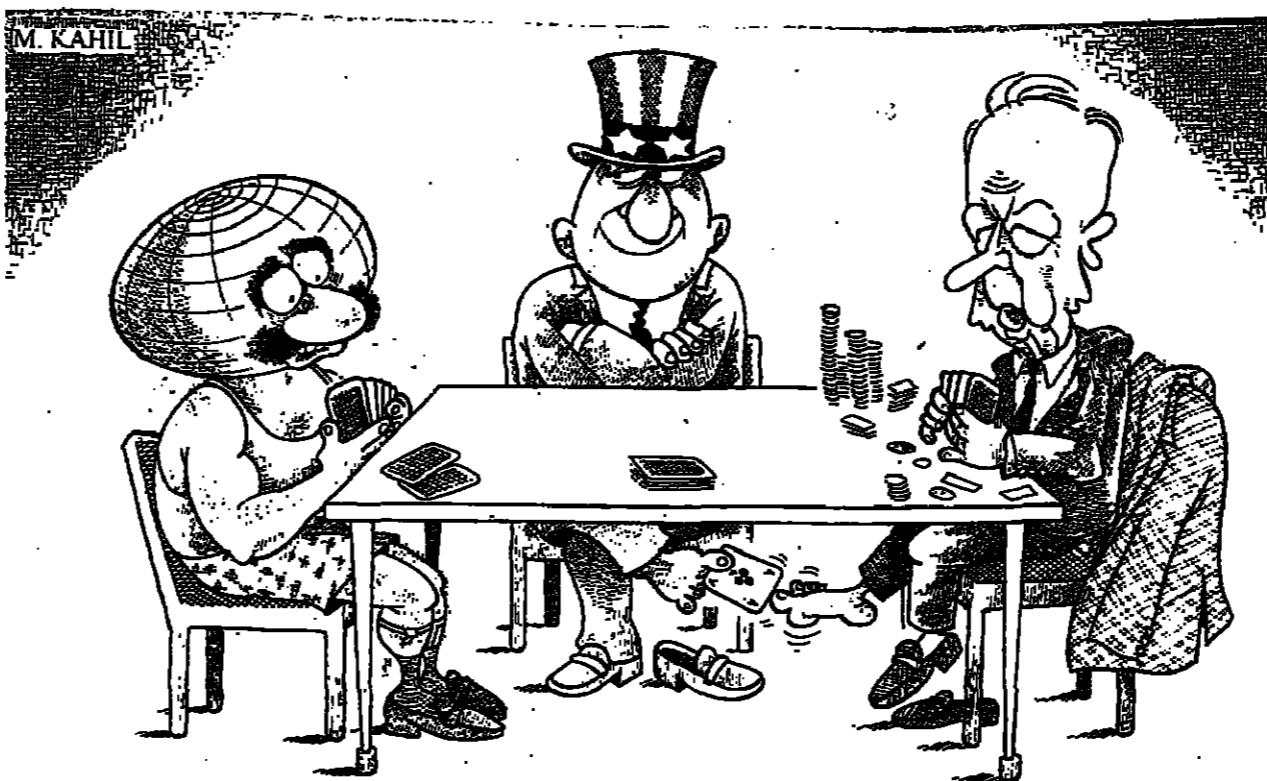
This is certainly one aspect of the problem facing the airline. The other dimension has to do with the steps RJ has to take in order to further improve itself from within. Accordingly, while there is unanimity on the point that the airline as currently constituted is undercapitalised and needs urgent financial transfusions, it has to be understood that "outside" help would simply not be enough without a parallel structural change within the airline. The management is therefore called upon to improve productivity more than they have already, cut costs beyond what it has done, without compromising the quality of services offered, and enhance its marketing policies even further. If such efforts require additional reviews of its routing policies, then so be it. This is something that RJ has got to do as a quid pro quo for any governmental intervention.

The two tracks in which the rescue plan has to be tried have to be well coordinated and synchronised. Obviously there is no magic wand with which to attain these objectives. The best that can be done is for the concerned authorities to sit together with RJ's chief executives to draw up a plan of action that would ensure the airline's continued viability and success.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday expressed the view that the Arab-Israeli peace process is almost dead on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Mohammad Karroub said that the deadlock is caused by Israel's intransigent position because it refuses to pull out from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Damascus. But, he said, the deadlock is bound to serve the Labour Party and the Rabin government in the 1996 parliamentary elections, because it shows that the Labour government is not interested in giving up occupied land and will not evict the settlers from the Syrian heights, much to the satisfaction of most Israelis. The writer said that the present deadlock, coupled with indifference to the situation on the part of the United States, which is supposed to play the full partner's role in the settlement, further strengthening the Israeli government's position and proving that the peace process with Syria is dead at least for the time being. For its part, Syria seems disinterested in any settlement with Israel that does not lend to a full withdrawal from the Golan.

COMMENTING ON declared plans by the government to hold cabinet meetings in different governorates to meet the local residents, a writer in Al Dastour said that there was no justification or need for such move. Mohammad Daoud said that the government, which had adopted the concept of decentralisation, should give the local governors sufficient power to deal with the various local issues. The fact that each governorate has its own parliament members and are all involved in one way or another in some of the political parties prompts one to wonder about the wisdom in the government's decision to hold sessions outside the capital since, said the writer, the representatives of the local population can best convey the requests of the local residents to the central government. In addition, said the writer, it is not possible for the cabinet members to deal with working papers and handle issues in one session held in the governorates no matter how long the session might be.



Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

The broken politics of perception

THE AMERICAN political landscape is in some disarray. Developments in the past few weeks have focused attention on the deep discord that exists in both political parties, and serious problems that plague American culture as we approach the 1996 elections.

That presidential politics has become a game of creating perceptions was in evidence at the recent meeting of the Iowa state Republican Party. Since Iowa will be the first state to hold presidential nominating campaigns in 1996, all of the nine Republican candidates have spent significant time and money there.

While the actual Iowa elections will not take place until next February, the state party organisation sought to raise money, by organising a late summer "straw poll." It was to be a fun event bringing the candidates together with their supporters to make speeches and then, for all in attendance, to informally vote for their favourite candidate.

But given the intense competition among the nine Republican hopefuls, and the media attention focused on the Iowa event, it became anything but fun. Since there were no rules to govern the affair — a \$25 fee was the only requirement for participation — each of the candidates saw the meeting as a chance to out-organise and embarrass his opponents.

With Senator Bob Dole expected to win in Iowa (because he comes from the neighbouring state of Kansas and is frequently referred to as "Iowa's third senator"), his closest challengers, Texas Senator Phil Gramm and CNN commentator Pat Buchanan, made a determined effort to bring supporters to the state party meeting.

Mr. Buchanan, a favourite among Iowa's re-

ligious right wing, worked tirelessly to round up supporters and buy them tickets to attend. Mr. Gramm, not to be outdone, spent as much as \$500,000 to bring supporters not only from Iowa but also from Illinois, Nebraska and Texas to vote for him.

Mr. Dole's organisation also worked hard and bought what they hoped were enough tickets for their supporters to bring him a comfortable margin of victory when the straw vote took place at the meeting.

When the final tally was announced, the Gramm effort had produced a tie with Mr. Dole, and Mr. Buchanan came third.

The event, of course, was meaningless in real terms. One commentator called it "a bizarre vote-buying bazaar," while another correctly framed it as a "rigged election."

But Mr. Gramm strongly championed the vote as a "referendum" on Mr. Dole and argued, even though he had radically outspent his fellow senator, the results represented a Gramm victory and a Dole defeat. Enough media outlets played the story Mr. Gramm's way, projecting him as an organisational winner, that the event became "proof" that Mr. Dole was no longer invulnerable. Some went so far as to speculate that Mr. Dole, now that he was "beaten," was a weakened candidate who had always had "paper-thin" support.

Since politics is so much about perception and perception is largely a media-created reality, the meaningless Iowa event took on a life of its own and began to create its own reality. A week after the event, "Dole Loses," "Gramm Wins," and "Dole Weakened in Iowa" stories proliferated across the political spectrum.

Mr. Buchanan, a favourite among Iowa's re-

slipping by 15 per cent — from 51 per cent to 36 per cent in the Republican campaign for president.

This ability of some political efforts to manipulate media with smart money and organising and shaping a story to create political realities had been on display a week earlier at a major event sponsored and paid for by Texas billionaire and 1992 presidential candidate Ross Perot.

Mr. Perot, who literally bought himself a presidential campaign in 1992, appears to be at it again for 1996. Knowing the wisdom of the adage "if you've got something to sell then will always be someone to buy," Mr. Perot is willing to spend millions to sell himself. He knows there are millions of Americans sufficiently disaffected by American politics to willingly identify themselves with his protest effort.

While the Perot event was billed as an issue forum "to debate the serious issues facing America," the real purpose of the event was to show that Ross Perot is a political power.

Mr. Perot drew 19 per cent of the vote in 1992, but has failed to produce his promised United We Stand America (UWSA) political organisation as a permanent third force in American politics. In most states, UWSA is a faction-driven group of a small handful of voters. In other states, it is merely an office taken over by Mr. Perot himself. In his quest to be seen as the arbiter of the independent voters in America, Mr. Perot continues to use money and the media to keep the spotlight on himself.

Afraid of being left behind, the politicians in the Republican Party followed his lead. (The Clinton Administration too, sent representatives to attend.) All nine of the Republican hopefuls attended the Mr. Perot event, re-enforcing the media perception that

when Mr. Perot, on behalf of "the people," beckons, politicians will respond.

The last story of the event was not the Republican candidates and their speeches (although some commentators did note Mr. Dole's weak performance and Mr. Buchanan's crowd stirring rhetoric); it was the power of Ross Perot and his possible 1996 political candidacy.

On another level, the perception game being played out by the growing number of political figures being touted by the media as possible independent presidential candidates in 1996. There has been a long press romance with former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell. Gen. Powell continues to be coy about his interests. He never acknowledges a desire to run, nor does he explicitly rule out the possibility of running. As a result, speculation abounds. He has been on the cover of major magazines and regularly featured in most news outlets. His audiences grow, as do prospective sales of his autobiography due to be on sale this fall.

Playing the same game is New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley. Announcing last week that he will not run for reelection to the Senate in 1996, he criticised the current state of the American political system, and vaguely hinted that he still has political ambition. That was all that the press needed to conclude the possibility of an independent run for the presidency next year by Mr. Bradley or — even more far-fetched but tantalizing — a Powell-Bill Bradley independent campaign. Polls have been taken, stories have been written and, once again, perceptions have begun to take on the appearance of political reality.

Mr. Bradley's criticism of American politics is correct, to some degree. But unless the senator alters his course, he may become, like other critics before him, a practitioner of some of the same evils that he has identified in the system.

Clearly, there is a popular desire for reform in American politics. But in recent years too many politicians have attached themselves to that desire for change, only to manipulate it for their own advancement. Instead of emphasising the development of grass-roots based political parties, the political process has come to be dominated by money and media-centred personality cults.

Despite their enormous potential to produce lasting and genuine change in the structure of American politics, these individual-led efforts of the past decade have failed, leaving only memories of past glory and a betrayed and embittered constituency.

For all that I disagree with the fundamentalist Christian right wing, it is important to note that they are the only example of a real political movement for change in the past decade.

Instead of merely being the vehicle for the advancement of the personality cult of Pat Robertson (out of whose 1988 presidential campaign this movement grew), the movement sunk its roots into the Republican party at the grass-roots level. It recruited and organised hundreds of thousands of members within the party structure and today fully controls one-third of the Republican party in the U.S.

The same cannot be said of the past efforts of Jerry Brown, Paul Tsongas or Ross Perot — all of whom left nothing in their wake but themselves and their ideas. In each case what initially moved these efforts was media perception, just as media perception sustained them, and it was the same media perception that ultimately toppled them.

America once again assumes the lead in Europe

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The humiliation of Europe in what may prove the Yugoslav endgame has yet to be fully appreciated in Europe's capitals. Reproached for their four-year failure to find a coherent and effective common policy, officials and politicians in London, Paris and Bonn still answer as if the last four years have taught them nothing. They act as if what has happened this week has no lessons for them.

"Yes," they say, "we really must have a common European foreign policy." If the European Union (EU) did not have a common policy before the Yugoslav war, and doesn't have one now, after four years of crisis, how can anyone think that it is going to have one in the future?

The United States has taken over the Yugoslav affair, made things happen and has a plan, which Richard Holbrooke has been in Europe to promote, to bring the war to an end.

It would do so either through negotiations while the Bosnian Serbs are

under duress or, failing that, by arming and protecting the Bosnian government, providing it with the means to fight for its own interests. The West thereby ceases to be the jailer of the Bosnians and the rifiers of Serbian conquests.

The application of duress began with American sponsorship of the Croatian-Bosnian Federation, and Washington's implied encouragement to Croatia's military campaign to recover the Krajina. It resumed with Wednesday's bombings and shelling of Bosnian-Serbian positions and installations.

French and British policy-by-default, as well as the policy of the European Union's negotiator (at least when Lord Owen occupied that post), has been to press the principal victim of aggression, the Bosnian government, to end the war by giving up. The American plan presses the principal instigator of aggression, Serbia, and its Bosnian-Serbian allies, to yield conquered territory.

A French historian of Yugoslavia, Paul Garde, has just published a de-

mand on the new French government that, while it has been overtaken by this week's NATO-U.N. action, is worth attention because of its political lesson.

He wants to reverse the programme of Serbian appeasement that was followed during the Mitterrand presidency, and he would even reject the American peace plan because it offers too much to the Serbs.

He asked that Paris use French military force to end Serbian bombardments of security zones and to restore unrestricted access, by normal land and air routes, to Sarajevo and Gorazde. He added that the repercussions inside Serbia of an aggressive French policy should be welcomed rather than feared.

"Defeats have always provoked dissension, and dissension provokes new defeats," he wrote.

Serbia, Professor Garde says, initiated the war and is the principal source of trouble in the Balkans: "It is the durable obstacle to the Balkan Peninsula's integration into Europe."

To "play the Milosevic

card" — as the West has been doing, and as the United States does by continuing to make the Serbian president its privileged interlocutor — has the effect of "reunifying the Serbian camp around a single chief," and will, he argues, perpetuate conflict.

If this had been France's policy in 1991 — or that of the United States — the war might have been stopped at the start. One government determined to block or punish military aggression in 1991, if only by arming and supporting the victims, could have changed everything.

Instead there was a vain search for European and international agreement on what, collectively, to do, ending in the hapless dispatch of humanitarian aid and unwanted mediators. Appeasement "added war to war," to employ Francois Mitterrand's phrase.

Appeasement of aggression and adventure is all but inevitable when you insist, in a situation like this, on obtaining unanimous agreement from 12,15 or even more different governments. Current events

again demonstrate that decisive action is possible only when there is a leader prepared to define the problem and take the initiative and responsibility, allowing others to follow if they want.

The United States today is again Europe's leader; there is no other. Both the Bush and Clinton administrations tried, and failed, to convince the European governments to take over Europe's leadership.

However, the Holbrooke plan does not mean that the United States now is back, prepared to resume its old role in Europe. It is back because Bosnia has become an internal American political issue and a presidential election approaches. Mr. Clinton and his people need this war out of the way.

If that can be accomplished, the United States will turn back towards its own problems, which are considerable. Europe, once again, will be left adrift, in troubled seas and worsening international weather.

Los Angeles Times

It Occurred to Me
By Ali Kassay

TO BE AN ARAB

NOT SO long ago, the Jordan Times published a feature on the confusion surrounding the Eritrean Community in Jordan, whether they are Arabs or not. For the benefit of those readers guilty of not reading this paragon of sober reporting and astute analysis as diligently as they should, below is a recap of the controversy.

Eritreans are a Hamito-Semitic people who speak several languages of their own, including Tigre, Tigrinya, Beja, Bilen, Saho, and Afar. The first two derive from the classic Ge'ez, one of the three principal living Semitic languages. At the same time, some Eritreans descend from Arab roots. Although Arabic is not an indigenous tongue, it has become, through the effects of the Koran, immigration, and commerce, one of the two most widely spoken languages, along with Tigrinya.

If ethnicity and language have not confused the question to the point of distraction, politics intervened to muddle the issue further. In the fifties and sixties Ethiopia maintained close relations with Israel. In response, Arabs supported the Eritrean struggle for independence. In the seventies and early eighties, Arabs became so rich that many Third World nations sought to join their ranks. Among the applicants was one of the liberation fronts of Eritrea; but its application remained indefinitely at the committee stage.

Two possible explanations present themselves: One, the league is a voluntary association of sovereign states, and the Eritrean front did not constitute a sovereign state, quite unlike the PLO, for instance. The second was perhaps the Arab League's devotion to the cause of unity. All members of the League, it is well known, sincerely share an ardent eagerness to unite, matched only by their reluctance to take any steps towards that goal. Consequently, that august organisation could not set the precedent of overtly supporting a secessionist movement.

When Asmara, the capital, was finally liberated and Eritrea became independent, new political realities kept the decision on that country's Arab credentials at a comfortable distance from the top of the agenda: Arabs were not so rich any more, and joining them was no longer attractive for Eritreans. Arabs, for their part, were too preoccupied with the Gulf Crisis to deal with Eritrea. Since then, no one has felt any urgency to address the question. Political archives can be like soup in a good-value-for-money restaurant: It is better not to stir them.

So, one might ask, why waste valuable column space discussing the matter? Because this confusion constantly creates problems for Eritreans in Jordan. Recently, a member of this community went to a government department to clear some papers. The civil servants were surprised that he, an Arab, did not proudly speak the noble tongue of his race. When he explained that Eritreans are not Arabs, since they do not benefit by the same treatment concerning visas, residence permits, and work permits as other Arab expatriates living in Jordan, the officials were neither rude nor hostile (perish the thought that Jordanian civil servants should ever be) but they were clearly vexed and wounded. Perhaps some clarity would not be amiss.

Good for women, not bad for China

The West has been using this week's U.N. conference in Beijing for some dubious moralising

By Germaine Greer

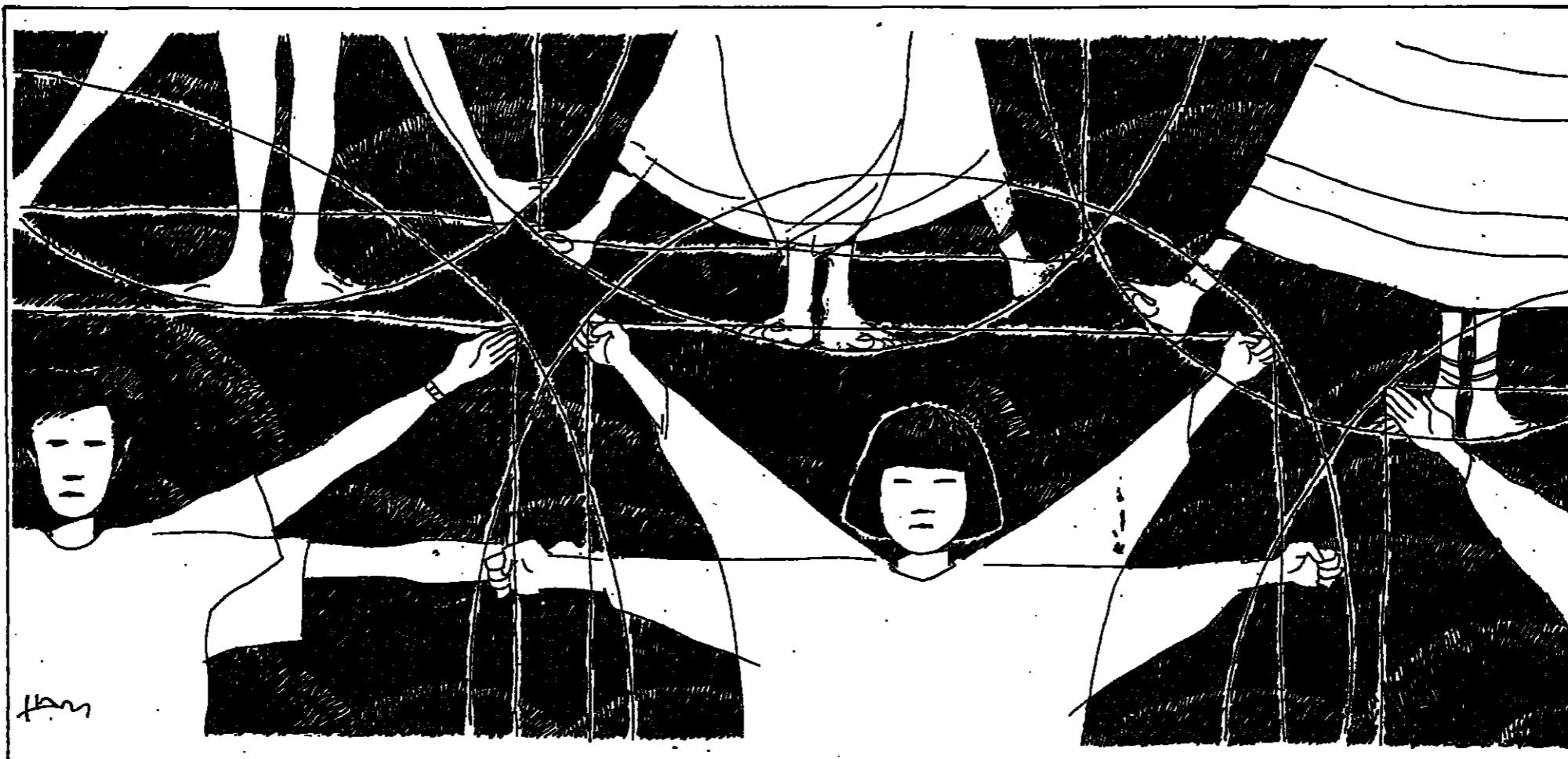
THE STAGING in Beijing of the Fourth U.N. Global Conference on Women seems doomed to result in an absurd débâcle. The "bad and ragged" U.N. has not been congratulated for anything that anyone can remember; women still cannot get themselves taken seriously, and the People's Republic of China has taken over the role of the world's most hated nation.

In the Seventies, when population panic was taught in schools, draconian Chinese legislation was greeted with enthusiasm; everybody was relieved that the Chinese, too, wanted fewer Chinese and were prepared to trample roughshod over human rights to get them.

To some observers it was obvious that the imposition of a one-child rule upon a peasant population that had barely emerged from a system in which women had been the property of men, who had the power to treat them as slaves, to starve, beat and even kill them, would lead to appalling abuses. Historically, peasant populations have led lives nasty, brutal and short, their only hope centred on having sons to carry on the line, to till the soil and lie beneath. In China, where farmers are still often buried on their own land, the continuum concept was even more important than it was in Europe. Only a totalitarian government could have obliterated at a stroke the Chinese peasant's reason for living.

Dynasty having been abolished, the rural worker toiled for the advancement of his community; when the struggle was against famine, victory was obvious and rewarding. With the liberalisation of agriculture and the stirrings of a free market mentality, the rural worker is once again dreaming his old dream.

By enforcing population control by a variety of pressures exerted with varying degrees of ferocity at commune level, the Chinese have reduced their population growth to less than 1.4 per cent a year, an astonishing achievement, but still not enough for the bishop who contributed his thought for the day to Radio 4 on Saturday. The very thought that a quarter of the world's population is Chinese seemed to fill this good gentleman with unease. If he wanted to illustrate runaway population growth, China was the worst example he could have chosen and yet he chose it. The disease of the millennium looks like being Sinophobia and the U.N.



Conference on Women its first casualty.

In vain the organisers repeat that this is not a conference on China, but a women's conference taking place in China simply because an Asian venue had been decided upon after Mexico City and Nairobi, and the Chinese made the only offer.

Why they offered is a bit of a mystery; some say they confidently expected the millennium Olympic Games and the conference would have been a warm-up. What is clear now is that the Chinese authorities are appalled at what they have brought upon themselves. This is the biggest-ever U.N. conference with 35,000 delegates in the official conference, not counting the Forum for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and the mob of accompanying media.

The Chinese are clearly anxious to avoid actual physical unpleasantness and to accommodate their visitors in a style they find acceptable; both are tall orders. The endless demands for visas and accreditation have resulted in stonewalling and delays as the Chinese struggle to keep an uncontrollable situation under control.

In the run-up to the conference the Chinese have received serve after serve of critical media attention. In May the totally unrealistic suggestion was made that the U.N. might have to

seek another venue for the conference because the Chinese had moved the NGO Forum to Huairou. The Chinese said that the original building, the Workers' Stadium, had developed defects that rendered it unsafe; nobody believed them. The move was interpreted as an attempt drastically to limit NGO access to the conference. As the U.K. contingent of NGOs to Beijing comprises more than 50 development agencies there would appear to be some argument for imposing some kind of a limit; in the event, the U.N. refused accreditation to 493 of the 2,000 odd agencies that applied. This, too, is normal, but when China is in question all behaviours become sinister.

The NGO Forum is less distant from the conference in Beijing than it was in Rio, where no fuss was made at all.

Throughout June, as the anniversary of Tiananmen approached, the Chinese accumulated bad publicity by arresting prominent dissidents. The announcement of the new Chinese Law on Maternal and Infant Care, which requires carriers of genetic disorders to undergo sterilisation as condition of receiving permission to marry was greeted in the West with outcry. The West did not strain at swallowing the camel of the one-child rule, which limited everybody's reproductive rights, but it gags on the gnat of

limiting the reproductive rights of carriers of genetic disorder. The birth of a damaged child in China usually results in permission to try again, but in communes in which this will not be forthcoming the pressure to abandon or do away with the child must be all but irresistible.

What the central government has to consider is that upon the healthy children will fall the burden of the care of all the non-productive members of the community. The spectre that can be glimpsed behind social welfare legislation in China is the spectre of the famine that used to be endemic: in the coming crunch the younger population may not be able to feed the longer-lived older generation. When freedom from hunger in menaced, the other freedoms tend to matter less.

China is not the only country in which the birth of a girl child is viewed as a disaster by women as well as men. The U.N. has long been aware of and has discussed the problem of millions of disappearing girl children in India and Pakistan, which is not caused by anything as obvious as infanticide, but by what could be called "differential care". When a girl child falls ill, her parents are not motivated to walk the many miles to the clinic or part with hard-earned cash for medicine. If she does not eat, they will not beggar

themselves to find something she will swallow. She will die of illnesses that her brother will survive.

This is not just a question of human rights or economics but of a cultural system developed out of centuries of hardship. Governments can try to raise the status of women by criminalising dowry and bride-prize, female circumcision, prostitution, slavery and murder, but ultimately women must bring about the changes themselves. The World Conference is of value not to China or the U.N., who have merely furnished the occasion, but to the women who will be there and the women who sent them.

The Chinese have only one way of dealing with Western vociferations about their ways of handling their own problems and that is to ignore them, but the chorus has grown so loud that the Chinese could be understood to be feeling something rather like despair. In July they succeeded in getting human-rights campaigner Harry Wu to confess that he had made untrue accusations. (Nobody suggested that the U.S. would boycott Rio if the Brazilians did not begin to take environmental issues seriously). The way out was found by sentencing Mr. Wu to 15 years' imprisonment and deportation, and deporting him at once so that Hillary Clinton could go to the conference after all. It was reported, unnecessarily, that she would have no contact with Chinese government officials.

In England, anti-Chinese uproar was triggered by the transmission of a Channel 4 documentary called *The Dying Rooms*, which purported to portray the plight of around one million abandoned children a year in China. That the orphanage sequences were genuine I would not dispute, but, population policy being both different and differently applied in different regions, the prevalence of such abuses is difficult to estimate. As I travelled a year ago from Xinjiang, where I saw families of four

and five children, eastwards towards Shanghai, where the one-child rule is rigorously enforced, I was told repeatedly that in China 115 boys were born for every 100 girls. Everyone seemed concerned that "there are already 50 million surplus males in China."

Western observers have estimated the shortfall of females anywhere between 15 and 60 million; any such figures must be guesses. What I was hearing from the Chinese was probably the result of government propaganda campaign to counteract the pronounced preference for male children. The new version is filled with concern for the millions of men who will never find a wife and never have sons of their own. No government wants 15 or 50 million unattached males roaming its streets.

The response to *The Dying Rooms* was an orgy of self-righteous Sinophobia; the London Evening Standard, which does not usually trouble itself about Asia or women's rights but is greatly interested in television, rang me to ask for a piece condemning China as the venue for the World Conference on Women. As an old U.N. hand who has been tearing her hair for 30 years over the hypocrisy, muddle and compromise that is all that the U.N. can ever manage, I declined. The piece eventually writ-

ten by Suzanne Moore here the headline, "How can women justify this jugueté to China?", which neatly encapsulated the Evening Standard's threefold aim of sneering at the U.N., belittling women and insulting China.

Moore argued that "those things which cannot be said there look like being far more important than what will be permissible to debate"; in fact, the Chinese authorities will have no power to muzzle the conference or the forum once they have convened. Getting the floor at either conference or forum is easy; as a veteran of such conferences I have yet to witness anyone silenced or ejected — but I have had to listen courteously to the likes of Mrs. Marcos and Princess Ashraf pretending to be concerned for the world's women.

Traditionally the Women's Conferences are vehicles for the bedmates of the men in power. The U.N., which seldom gets any closer to heads of state, falls panting into the arms of their wives and concubines. Most of the government delegates to Beijing justify their country's performance vis-à-vis women, and the courtesies of the situation demand that the other delegates do not fall about laughing or howl in derision.

Both U.N. officials and the Chinese fear that the Conference on Women will be turned into a conference on China. In fact there is a good deal of overlap between the Platform for Action to be agreed by the conference and the issues to be discussed at the forum. As neither conference nor forum has any power of enforcement, the Platform for Action is actually a collection of guidelines; the U.N. can only say "governments should" and never "government must". Some governments have still to ratify the Women's Convention of 1975.

Yet it is no more true to say that Beijing will be a non-event than it would be true to say that the sell-out stomping and cheering What Women Want Concert at the Festival Hall on Saturday was a non-event. Though scented hackettes may earn good money for reviling the organisers of both in the name of their own brand of filter-tipped feminism, they have missed the point. For the 60,000-odd women who will be there, Beijing will be a blast. And it won't do the Chinese any harm either.

The Independent.

Trouble brewing in UNRWA

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Manasrah urged the Jordanian government, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and public opinion, which contributed to prompting UNRWA to reverse its decision to shut down the faculty, to mobilise "to get the agency to cancel my dismissal."

On Sunday UNRWA postponed for one year a move to suspend new enrolment at the faculty. Mr. Turkmen said the decision was reached "with the understanding that (the government and the PNA) will convince the donor countries to provide the necessary financial re-

sources for an adequate financing of the faculty in the future."

A reversal of the decision to shut down the college, which outraged UNRWA workers, was part of the demands that were to be raised in a strike that the agency's employees planned to stage Monday.

However, the strike was frozen pending the outcome of talks employees' representatives plan to hold with Mr. Turkmen, who is expected here on Sept. 15, UNRWA sources said.

The strike was also to press demands for better health, education and so-

cial services as well as improved terms for end-of-service compensation and salary increases compatible with the rising cost of living.

A senior source in the UNRWA labour committee criticised the decision to dismiss Dr. Manasrah.

The source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, lashed out at what he called the "lack of democratic practices at UNRWA's upper echelons of power."

The source asserted that decisions were taken without consulting with the labour committees that represents 6,000 UNRWA employees in Jordan.

The decision to dismiss

Serb. The weather cleared Tuesday, allowing officials to gauge Serb compliance.

"We have no reports so far that any Serb heavy weapons actually left the exclusion zone," said U.N. spokesman Miryam Sochacki in Sarajevo just a couple of hours before the strike.

A statement from NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said the movements of Bosnian Serb weaponry "were insignificant, and therefore judged that the Bosnian Serbs had failed to comply."

"We hope that this operation will make clear to the Bosnian Serbs the futility of further military activity," Dr. Claes said.

NATO warplanes roared over Sarajevo almost constantly overnight, but the top U.N. official in ex-Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said bad weather had hampered efforts to monitor the

area. But they said the movement was insufficient.

"Our patience is really running thin," U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivankovic said in Sarajevo just a couple of hours before the strike.

Ms. Sochacki said at least 24 heavy weapons — including four tanks, an armoured vehicle and an assortment of mortars and artillery pieces — had been removed from the Serb-held front-line suburb of Lukavica late Monday.

However, Ms. Sochacki said the weapons did not seem to be travelling beyond Toplik, about three kilometres south of Sarajevo.

Earlier, Gen. Mladic, the rebels' military commander, talked tough in a letter received at U.N. headquarters just 3½ hours before the 11 p.m. deadline.

"No one, not even myself, has the right to order the withdrawal," Gen. Mladic wrote. "This is... not in the jurisdiction of generals."

in circles, hide some of them to residential areas, hide some of them in woods and wait for the moment to be diluted."

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However, Ms. Sochacki said the weapons did not seem to be travelling beyond Toplik, about three kilometres south of Sarajevo.

It was possible that the Serbs were only moving their weapons to areas with a large civilian population to deter NATO attacks, Ms. Sochacki said.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic accused the Serbs of planning to "drive heavy guns and tanks around

Human rights loom into focus

(Continued from page 1)

delegates were splitting into working groups on the conference's proposed platform.

The document, to be debated over the next 10 days, calls for steps to alleviate women's poverty and improve health care, education and job opportunities for women.

The conservatives are united in their objections to liberal wording in the main document of the conference on such issues as access to birth control and abortion. The Muslim states, meanwhile, are also concerned about its insistence on women's equality, saying that the interpretation may conflict with Islamic law.

None of the main conservative protagonists had spoken on Monday, although most of the tough debating is likely to go on in committees, out of public view, diplomats said.

The speech by the Vatican's representative expressed no open opposition to abortion, other than to assail it as a "tragic" event, and stressed instead the values of motherhood and family and male responsibility.

Another trouble spot is money, with the world's poorer nations making a familiar clamour for help from wealthier states to set vital programmes for women, such as health and education, in motion.

"The reality is that many of the states in the developing world will require supplementary resources to help their people help themselves," said Philippine Senator Leticio Ramos-Shahani, speaking for a loose group of 132 developing countries.

Libya: Palestinians welcome expulsion

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya welcomed the Libyan city of Benghazi to send them back to their homeland.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which runs the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho, have condemned the expulsions and individual Palestinians have also complained of the disruption to their lives and the treatment they receive on the journey.

But the official Libyan news agency JANA quoted a message to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi from the Palestinian community in Benghazi as saying they fully supported him.

Colonel Qadhafi said on Saturday that the idea of sending the Palestinians home was to expose the failure of the self-rule agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

The message to Col. Qadhafi, for which JANA mentioned no signatories.

Syria says pessimism justified

(Continued from page 1)

target dates in their four negotiations between the two countries.

In a possible sign of redoubled American efforts to spur the talks, meanwhile, Israel's Channel Two TV reported Monday that the United States is proposing March 1996 as a target date for reaching agreement.

To date, Israel and Syria have avoided setting formal

said: "We support a mass return to Palestine, not just to expose capitulationist solutions but also to fan the flames of popular revolution.

"We declare we are fully prepared to carry out all the programmes you see fit as a way to go back to our homeland. We are your loyal disciples."

Palestinian officials said on Sunday that 450 expelled Palestinians had been stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border for the past 10 days. Libya and Egypt have not commented.

It was not known how many Palestinians live in Benghazi, which is on the Mediterranean coast east of the capital Tripoli, or whether they were among those Col. Qadhafi threatened to expel Friday.

In September, Col. Qadhafi said he would throw out Palestinians and then expelled a few hundred in December. An undisclosed number were deported last month.

Israeli government officials could not confirm the report.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters the Israeli-Syrian peace talks appear "more cloudy than before."

U.S. top, Japan plunges in world competitiveness league

GENEVA (R) — The United States, powered by newly-aggressive industry, is easily the world's most competitive economy but a vibrant Singapore is hot on its heels, an authoritative study said Tuesday.

With the two leaders pulling away from the rest, Hong Kong comes in third, but Japan has dropped into fourth place due to its economic woes and a general crisis of confidence, according to the annual World Competitiveness Report.

The report, whose assessments are widely used around the globe as a guide for business and investment, is issued by the Lausanne International Institute for Management

Development and the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

The gap between a resurgent United States, which recaptured the lead in 1994, and a declining Japan which had previously held the top competitiveness spot for nine years, "is widening even more," the wide-ranging study said.

Switzerland, in fifth place, leads European countries in a league table covering the world's top 48 economies. Included for the first time, China comes in at 34th and Russia is last.

Competitiveness in Asia in general, the report said, was booming with China and India showing tremendous

potential. "The dynamism of East Asia remains staggering," it added with Hong Kong strong and Taiwan surging from 18th to 11th in the table.

Malaysia came in 21st, with South Korea 24th, Thailand 26th, Indonesia 33rd and the Philippines 35th, underlining, the report said, "the more difficult task of developing the competitiveness of heavily-populated countries."

Latin America was moving strongly into the competitiveness scene through Chile (20), Argentina (39th), Peru (32nd) and Colombia (36th). But South Africa, the only sub-Saharan African country in the league, dropped from 35th to 42nd place.

Compilers of the study define international competitiveness as the ability of a country "to proportionally generate more wealth than its competitors in world markets" and this year tapped the views of 3,292 top executives around the globe.

The assessments are based on eight factors, from domestic economic strength

through government policies affecting competitiveness to infrastructure and people, or the availability and qualifications of a country's human resources.

Professor Stephane Garelli, director of the project, said the U.S. revival had three prime sources.

These were "strong resilience in the economy thanks to deregulation and privatisation programmes; leadership in new technologies — such as computers, telecommunications, bio-engineering — and services; and strict control on the operating costs of enterprises, in particular labour costs."

Japan's decline, it said, "seems to be socially rather than just economically related, which means that the challenge will lie in the country's ability to reform itself."

Germany ranked sixth, the Netherlands seventh and Denmark ninth in the league. But France stood 17th and Britain 18th while among southern EU members Spain was in 28th position, Italy 30th and Portugal 31st, with Greece a poor 43rd.

Energy minister postpones visit to Iraq

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's energy minister has postponed a scheduled visit to Iraq to discuss building an oil pipeline because ties between the two countries have become tense, industry sources said Tuesday.

The sources said worsening political ties could also affect long-term plans to build an oil refinery at the port of Aqaba which would partly rely on Iraqi oil.

Samih Darwazah was due in Baghdad in late August to meet his Iraqi counterpart but postponed the visit after Jordan gave asylum to two top level Iraqi defectors and King Hussein criticised the Iraqi regime in a televised speech.

Iraq remains Jordan's only oil supplier though Amman is now looking for alternative supplies in case of disruptions. It sends by tanker trucks about 3.2 million tonnes of crude annually and about one million tonnes of derivatives — an equivalent of about 75,000 barrels per day (b/d).

Mr. Darwazah, who visited Baghdad earlier this year, has been discussing with Iraq building a pipeline to carry oil to the Zarqa refinery and slash the \$10 per tonne cost of shipping it by lorry.

Over 2,000 tankers ply the cross-border route every day.

But industry officials said the pipeline project was now in question, as are plans for a \$2 billion offshore refinery close to the Red Sea port of

Aqaba. Though not relying exclusively on Iraqi crude, the project could become less attractive to foreign investors who have based calculations on cheap Iraqi supplies in a post sanctions era.

Jordan has been totally dependent on Iraq for oil since neighbouring Saudi Arabia stopped pumping an estimated 40,000 b/d of crude through the Tapline pipeline in September 1990 to punish Jordan for its pro-Iraqi sympathy during the Gulf crisis.

Washington wants Jordan to stop buying Iraqi oil, one of Baghdad's few sources of income from abroad since sanctions were imposed in 1990.

Diplomats have reported repair work on the Saudi pipeline that use to carry oil to Jordan in the past in recent days but officials from Jordan and Saudi firm ARAMCO have said this is simply part of a routine maintenance programme.

Jordan pays market prices for 25,000 b/d of the crude oil minus \$1 barrel for trucking transportation shouldered by Amman, and for another 25,000 b/d of petroleum products.

The rest of the oil is at undisclosed concessionary terms believed to pay for Jordanian exports.

An estimated \$400 million is deposited every year in an escrow account at Jordan's central bank to pay Jordanian firms for food and medicine trucked to Baghdad under terms approved by the United Nations.

Arabs to resume talks next week on boosting internal trade

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab economy ministers will meet in Cairo next week to resume talks on boosting flagging trade among their countries as part of longstanding attempts to integrate their economies, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) official was quoted Tuesday as saying.

The ministers from the 22-member Arab League will discuss proposals to increase commercial exchanges reached at a conference held in Cairo in June, said Abdul Raouf Mubarak, economy and trade ministry under-secretary.

"The theme of this 56th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council will be how to boost inter-Arab trade. It will focus on a number of proposals and recommendations in this regard," he told Al Ittihad daily.

The September 11-14 talks would also cover a joint Arab address at the upcoming meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Arab states have been locked in efforts to activate internal trade, hit by customs

barriers, political rifts, and financial and economic problems.

Trade has remained below 10 per cent of the total Arab trade despite the creation of the region's first major commercial financing mechanism — the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Trade Financing Programme.

The \$300 million fund, set up by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) four years ago, has provided nearly \$450 million in credits for internal trade transactions, far behind its annual capacity of \$1 billion.

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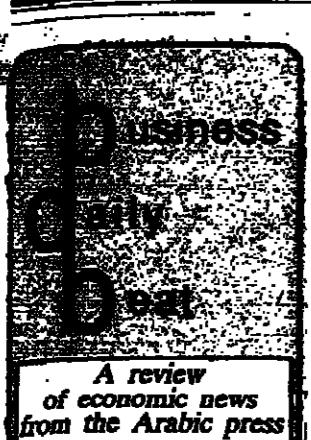
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SEPTEMBER
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Restaurants for eating, nightclubs for fun

★★ A COMMITTEE representing the Ministry of Interior, the Amman Governorate, the Amman Police Directorate and the Ministry of Tourism is currently reconsidering the structure of restaurants and nightclubs in the capital. The committee will supervise the functions of restaurants and nightclubs under new basis and regulations, the most important of which is to separate the activities of both businesses. Restaurants will not be allowed to take on the role of nightclubs and any restaurants wishing to offer nighttime entertainment will be converted to a nightclub. The Ministry of Interior and the Amman Governorate have recently restricted giving permissions to artists working in restaurants but yesterday (Monday) decided to continue issuing permits as usual. (Al Aswaq).

★★ THE AMMAN Bank for Investment (ABI) has reached an advanced stage in its negotiations for a merger with a large banking institution. The manager of the bank said that although the ABI lost JD 1.6 million as a result of selling its share in Rum company, the market value of the ABI share should be much higher than the current trading price. He added that the bank was planning to buy real estate worth JD 2.5 million in the heart of Amman (Al Aswaq).

★★ THE HEAD of the community colleges department at the Ministry of Higher Education said that some colleges will not be accepting applications for this year, implicitly meaning that the founding management of these colleges have opted to close their institutions. Saying that the closures could have been for economic reasons, he named the colleges as follows: The National College, the Jordanian Community, Petra, Jerash and the Hotel College (Al Aswaq).

★★ A NEW gas well was discovered south of Al Rishieh gas field and it is highly probable that other wells will be discovered to make the new field another source providing the Kingdom with gas, the minister of energy and mineral resources said. He indicated that the newly-established National Oil Company would continue searching for gas in the same area. The minister said that Jordan's post-2000 strategy in the energy sector aims at providing industries, electric power stations and Amman houses with gas for heating and heating purposes from local sources as well as from Qatar and Egypt (Al Aswaq).

★★ INSPECTORS OF market prices issued 1,400 violation notices during last month, 400 more than the notices given in July 1994. As a result of intense inspections, 222 violation notices were issued to commercial stores selling stationery and school supplies for students, 165 notices to poultry shops, 308 to vegetable and fruit outlets, 280 to restaurants and 45 to bakeries. All violation notices were for raising prices and cheating (Al Aswaq).

★★ STATISTICS FROM the Ministry of Labour show that during the first eight months of this year, a total of 9,135 industrial accidents occurred leading to JD 9.1 million in direct losses and JD 91.3 million in indirect losses. The director of the occupational safety department at the Ministry of Labour attributed the high number of accidents to the increasing number of establishments and to high rate of staff turnover. He noted that 20 per cent of all those who were affected by industrial accidents were new workers. The director said foreign labourers hired to do jobs they cannot handle well was another cause for work accidents (Al Aswaq).

Saudis spend \$242 m on advertising in 7 months

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Saudi Arabia spent 900 million ryals (\$242 million) on advertising in the first seven months of this year, a four per cent hike over the equivalent period last year, the Saudi Gazette newspaper has reported.

The English-language daily quoted Bakheet Al Hammad, chairman of the Al Bayan Agency, as saying total spending for the January-July period in 1994 was 871 million ryals (\$232 million).

Mr. Hammad said the increase stemmed from a growing awareness among businessmen of the importance of advertising in marketing products and boosting sales.

He noted that the kingdom's advertising market is the biggest in the Middle East and now has a growth rate of 10 per cent a year.

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		New York	Tokyo
Currency	Date 5/9/1995	Livre	Fiorin
Sterling Pound	1,350.00	1,553.50**	
Deutsche Mark	1,462.28	1,467.77	
Swiss Franc	1,194.5	1,205.0**	
French Franc	5,046.0	5,047.2**	
Japanese Yen	97.43	98.73	
European Currency Unit	1,276.5	1,276.5**	

*Per 100
**Opening or 100 m.s. equivalent

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date 5/9/1995		
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.02
Deutsche Mark	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
Swiss Franc	2.62	2.62	2.62	2.62
French Franc	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.55	0.50	0.56
European Currency Unit	5.53	5.50	5.50	5.43

Interest rate for amounts exceeding 100,000 m.s. or equivalent

Precious Metals		Date 5/9/1995
Metal	USDM	JDIM*
Gold	379.65	7.50

* 24 karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		Date 5/9/1995
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.711	0.713
Sterling Pound	1,1025	1,1040
Deutsche Mark	0.4847	0.4871
Swiss Franc	0.3901	0.3831
French Franc	0.1404	0.1411
Japanese Yen	0.7245	0.7281
Dutch Guilder	0.4326	0.4348
Swedish Krona	-----	-----
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Reign Franc	-----	-----

* Per 100

Other Currencies		Date 5/9/1995
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1,8720	1,8870
Lebanese Lira	0.04335	0.044225
Saudi Riyal	0.1898	0.1908
Kuwaiti Dinar	2,2950	2,3370
Qatar Riyal	0.1981	0.1955
Egyptian Pound	0.2700	0.2180
Cosmopolitan Riyal	1,8427	1,8500
UAR Dirham	0.1930	0.1961
Greek Drachma	0.2845	0.3335
Cypriot Pound	1,5282	1,5965

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar 1.3402/12
1.4648/58.
1.6412/22
1.2018/28
30.13/17
5.0553/03
1626.07/10
97.95/05
7.3060/60
6.404/90
5.6823/73

One sterling \$1.5542/52
One ounce of gold \$379.25/379.75

Investors turn their back on Olivetti

MILAN (R) — Italian investors have given a resounding thumbs down to Olivetti, a company once hailed as a marvel of Italian high-tech flair, and share analysts see no early end to its woes in sight.

The loss-making group, whose shares have slumped on the Milan Stock Exchange this week, has been pinning hopes of a recovery over the next few years on a mobile telecommunications venture, called Omnitel Prontoitalia, scheduled for launch in the winter.

But mounting losses in personal computers, one of the traditional mainstays of the Olivetti business, have triggered a collapse in confidence among investors who believe that the company shows signs of having lost its way.

"The question people are asking is what this company wants to look like in five years' time or even just next year. The answer is not clear," said a London-based stockbroker who asked not to be identified.

The company has piled up cumulative losses of 2.2 trillion lire (\$1.4 billion) in four years.

Investors say they are also losing patience with repeated assurances by Olivetti that the company is about to recover, which have not been borne out by events.

"We have gone through Olivetti promising us improvements for five years and they have not delivered," said Marie-Christine Keitel, an equities analyst at brokers James Capel in London.

Olivetti's fall from favour has been accompanied by growing disenchantment with the group's chairman, Carlo de Benedetti, who in his heyday in the mid-1980s was one of the darlings of the Italian stock exchange.

"Carlo de Benedetti has lost a lot of favour from the market," said a telecommunications industry analyst with an investment bank in London.

"The track record of what the company says and what it then achieves has not been good. There is a huge credibility gap," the London-based stockbroker commented.

If Egypt signed the agreement in its present form, it would lose any relative advantage it has through low labour costs, because the lower the final cost of a product, the lower the value of the components that could come from abroad, he said.

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Ahli-Orthodoxi controversy still unresolved

Kingdom's basketball competitions to resume Sept. 25

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Monday decided to go ahead with all matches postponed after the Aug. 20 violence during the Ahli-Orthodoxi Under-22 match, there was no indication that the strained relations between Jordan's basketball powerhouses was about to be resolved.

Representatives from the Ministry of Youth also attended the JBF's regular meeting after the federation's committee so far failed to reconcile differences between the two clubs.

In a press release Tuesday, the JBF announced that the women's competition would resume Sept. 25.

and the U-22 matches Oct. 3. Representatives of participating clubs, except for Al Orthodoxi, attended the meeting to agree on the new dates.

If Al Orthodoxi fail to show up for their scheduled matches, their decision will have a very negative impact as 1995 JBF regulations stipulate that players of any team withdrawing from competitions will automatically be free to join any other club.

While Al Orthodoxi had announced that they were suspending all basketball activities following the Aug. 20 controversial match, the JBF has given Al Orthodoxi another three weeks to reconsider their decision.

The JBF had reviewed

the tape recording of the match and based on reports from the technical committee, referees and eyewitnesses decided to suspend Al Orthodoxi's Ihab Msh and Al Ahli's Faisal Ensour for two months each for starting the brawl that led to the halting of the match. Al Ahli were also considered the winners of the match after Al Orthodoxi withdrew with Al Ahli leading 66-57 in the tenth minute of the second half. Al Orthodoxi's Mustafa Al Ghoul who attacked a referee during the same match was suspended until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Al Orthodoxi and Al Ahli were continuing their war of words with each side accusing the other of instigating the violence and tense scene.

While both clubs have been the Kingdom's undisputed rivals for the past two decades, relations between the two clubs have never been so bad.

Al Orthodoxi held a powerful grip on the basketball scene until 1990 when they lost to the title to Al Ahli who have been the champions for the past three years.

Not only basketball, but swimming and handball events were also marred by unsportsman like incidents during the past week. Events of the Jordan Swimming Championships were put on hold after referees announced they were pulling out until the Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) takes the decision to not participating.

bar Al Orthodoxi's swimmer Osama Al Halman who had attacked a referee earlier in the week.

So far, the JSF has not taken any decision regarding the swimmer whose club insisted that he continues his participation in the week-long event. In handball, two Orthodoxi players also attacked their opponents during a second division match and they were suspended by the Jordan Handball Federation.

In their latest meeting the JBF also decided not to participate in the Arab Junior Basketball Championship which is scheduled to start in Cairo Oct. 4. Local basketball activities and a late invitation were cited as the reasons for not participating.



Poland's Krzysztof Kolumanski and Michel Staniszewski on their way to a gold medal 02 September, in the men's Canadian Doubles at the World Stalow Canoeing Championships at Nottingham (AFP photo)

Colombian boxers winning titles, having troubles with success

PALENQUE, Colombia (AP) — They have risen to the heights: from the pitted streets of this dirt-poor town and others like it in Colombia to win boxing's most coveted international titles.

Then, as if on the wrong end of a right hook, many have come crashing back down.

Antonio Cervantes — "kid pambelo" to boxing fans — won the World Boxing Association's junior welterweight title in Las Vegas in May. Jimmy Garcia suffered brain damage and died after 13 weeks in a coma.

While fighting for the WBC super featherweight title in Las Vegas in May, Jimmy Garcia suffered brain damage and died after 13 weeks in a coma.

Thousands of grief-stricken fans, who had worshipped Garcia as a hometown hero, attended his burial in the coastal city of Barranquilla.

Elvis Alvarez, a 1991 WBA bantamweight champion, was murdered in July, apparently over the attempted theft of his motorcycle.

WBO featherweight champion Ruben Palacio was stripped of his title in 1993

Cervantes is one of many former top boxers who have fallen on hard times. Besides economic woes, a string of tragedies has also hit Colombian boxers. Among recent incidents:

If there's one area of Colombia that produces boxing champions, it is the Caribbean coast — hot, humid and laid back.

Street parties, fueled by rum and aguardiente, the local firewater, can last all night.

At some parties, youths set up impromptu boxing matches. It's a popular sport in poor neighbourhoods and villages because it's cheap — boxing gloves are the only essential gear — and because there's a chance that with skill, dedication and bravery, a young fighter can join the 23 Colombians who have won world titles in the past two decades.

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WBO featherweight champion Ruben Palacio was stripped of his title in 1993

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FIFA gives all-clear on doping tests

ZURICH (AP) — All 56 doping tests carried out at international soccer championships this year proved negative, the sport's governing body FIFA said Monday. The tests were carried out at the World Youth Championships in Qatar in April, the women's World Cup in Sweden in June and the Under-17 tournament in Ecuador last month. FIFA said 24 players were tested in Qatar and 12 in Ecuador. Twenty women were tested in Sweden. It said specialists at laboratories accredited by the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland, Sweden and Mexico had given the all-clear.

Fresh injury blow for England

LONDON (R) — England's injury problems for Wednesday's soccer friendly against Colombia worsened on Monday. Coach Terry Venables, already without captain David Platt, Liverpool striker Stan Collymore and Manchester United defender Gary Pallister, looks like having to discard two more when he picks his team on Tuesday. Nottingham Forest's left back Stuart Pearce, who has a hamstring problem, and Newcastle forward Peter Beardsley failed to get through the full training programme on Monday. Beardsley completed the first, strenuous training session but then twisted a knee in the second, more gentle work-out.

Maradona vexed by Caniggia drug test

Buenos Aires (AP) — The Argentine Football Association is unfairly targeting past offenders in a bid to crack down on drug abuse, Diego Maradona claims. Maradona, whose second 15-month playing ban for drug-related offenses expires on Sept. 30, said three tests on striker Claudio Caniggia in the last four weeks made a mockery of what was supposed to be a random selection. "This is a country of squealers. It's ridiculous that Caniggia has been tested three times," Maradona said in a radio interview from the Uruguayan resort of Punta Del Este where he is undergoing a fitness programme behind closed doors. In Argentine League and Cup games, two players from both sides are picked randomly to undergo doping tests: Maradona last year clashed with Argentine national coach Daniel Passarella, who said he was in favour of all players in his squad having rhinoscopy — an examination of the internal structures of the nose — to detect cocaine use.



Boris Becker of Germany hits a backhand during his U.S. Open match (AFP photo)

Agassi, Seles move into U.S. Open quarterfinals

NEW YORK (R) — The Andre Agassi juggernaut and the Monica Seles comeback express chugged into the U.S. open quarter-finals Monday on a day of little drama at the National Tennis Centre.

Top seed and defending champion Agassi ran his summer hardcourt winning streak to a personal-best 24 in a row with a routine 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 victory over 75th-ranked fellow American Jared Palmer.

Seles faced her toughest opposition since her return to big-time tennis last month from hard-hitting German Anke Huber, the 11th seed.

Still, the 21-year-old superstar dropped just five games en route to a 6-1, 6-4 victory as things settled back to business as usual after Sunday night's upset of women's defending champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario by Mary Joe Fernandes.

"I felt really good, the heat wasn't bothering me at all," said Seles, whose fitness was an obvious question mark after a layoff of more than two years.

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 140 and 89. World number 24 players were tested in Qatar and 12 in Ecuador. Twenty women were tested in Sweden. It said specialists at laboratories accredited by the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland, Sweden and Mexico had given the all-clear.

Seles opened the set with a service break, but failed to hold her own serve, a lapse that weighed heavily on her mind over the next few games.

"That made the second set much harder than if I had won the first game," she said.

"I had such a great

momentum going and my mind wandered off."

Seles dismissed any suggestion that she was merely getting fatigued.

"I wasn't tired. It didn't even cross my mind. I think I was just preoccupied with the thought of that second game."

The day produced one minor upset when 16th-seeded Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz-McCarthy used her big serve and volley record to pick off seventh seed Kimiko Date of Japan.

Date, a French Open semi-finalist who had reached the quarters the past two years here, ran out of steam in her fourth consecutive three-set match.

Schultz-McCarthy advanced to a quarter-final showdown with fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, who held off American Zina Garrison Jackson 7-6, 7-5 to run her summer hardcourt record to a perfect 14-0.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-breaker.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hardcourt tournament he has played this year.

"I like my chances against anybody if I am playing my best."

U.S. Open notebook

"I am in here just getting through the matches, ready to peak when I have to," said the reigning Australian Open champion, who looks on course for a semifinal with

Boris Becker in what would be a rematch of the Wimbledon semifinal won by the German this year.

Fourth seed Becker, the 1989 open champion but a first-round loser last year, played giant killer to reach the quarter-finals.

Becker never faltered from the service line in flogging out a 7-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over towering 13th seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland, the tallest player in the tournament at 6-foot-7 (2.01).

"We have identified a number of distinct advantages for forming this association between the USTA and World Team Tennis and we feel we are doing something that is good for the future of the game," USTA president Les Snyder said Monday.

Added WTT director Billie Jean King: "Today, boys and girls are very active in team sports and we feel strongly that we can introduce more of them to tennis in a positive way, by offering them the chance to compete as a team."

* Monica's mauler: Monica Seles was a happy fourth-round winner Monday. So happy in fact that before walking off stadium court after defeating 11th-seeded Anke Huber of Germany, Seles decided to autograph a CBS sports television camera.

With black marker in hand, Seles wrote her name across the camera lens. Unfortunately, Seles didn't sign her name backwards so television viewers were graced with "Acinom Seles" across their TV screen.

Lucky for CBS, Seles actually signed a protective glass cover over the camera lens.

* Old-timers fan: Many of the favourite tennis players of the 1960s and '70s are entertaining fans during the U.S. Open in corporate outings.

* Grand Slam Sports, a company whose president is Australian star Fred Stolle, will play host to 26 corporate outings during the Open dates.

Roy Emerson, Ken Rosewall, Cliff Drysdale and Stolle are among the ex-players to participate.

Many of these corporate events took place at the Westside Tennis Club in Forest Hills, the former site of the U.S. Open.

A number of these events will take place at the National Tennis Centre, where the open is held now. These include events for the New York Stock Exchange, Mass Mutual, American Express Platinum Card and Tennis Magazine.

* Shazit support: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy is the first Dutchwoman since Betty Stove in 1977 to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

The 16th seed moved into the final eight by virtue of a three-set victory over No. 7 Kimiko Date.

And who was front and centre offering Schultz-McCarthy support during the Date Match?

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GOREN BRIDGE	
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH ©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.	WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
<p>Q.1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: a) CK 9 7 2 5 OK 10 4 A K 4 b) Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?</p> <p>Q.2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: a) A Q 8 7 3 9 OK 7 5 2 A K 10 3 b) The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 2 0 Pass 2 0 Pass 2 0 Pass What action do you take?</p>	
<p>Q.3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: a) CK 9 7 2 5 OK 10 4 A K 4 b) Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?</p> <p>Q.4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: a) A Q 8 7 3 9 OK 7 5 2 A K 10 3 b) The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 2 0 Pass 2 0 Pass 2 0 Pass What action do you take?</p>	
<p>Q.5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: a) CK 9 7 2 5 OK 10 4 A K 4 b) Your right-handed opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?</p> <p>Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: a) CK 9 7 2 5 OK 10 4 A K 4 b) The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass 2 0 Pass 2 0 Pass 2 0 Pass What action do you take?</p>	

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Taxpayers giving millions to Olympics

ATLANTA (AP) — Even the Americans who haven't personally spent a dime yet for a ticket or T-shirt are helping Atlanta pay for the 1996 Olympic Games — through federal tax dollars.

Though the games themselves are privately funded from sources including television rights, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales, the U.S. government is pitching in tens of millions of dollars worth of services that are crucial to their success.

The biggest expenditures: \$35 million for security, carried out mainly by the military.

\$28 million for buses and other transportation assist-

ance.

Federal agencies also will be involved in trash pickup, recycling, testing energy technology, bicycle trail construction and environmental protection, among other areas.

An aide to Vice President Al Gore, whose office is coordinating the federal government's Olympic activities, said he did not know the total amount of money the various agencies are spending. Some estimates have put the figure as high as \$92 million.

The State of Georgia is spending more than \$150 million on public buildings that will be used during the games, though no state tax

money is going directly to the Olympics. Atlanta and other local governments are spending about \$90 million on projects related to the Olympics.

Olympics officials and their supporters in Congress defend the federal spending as necessary for an event that will attract thousands of foreign visitors.

"We as a nation have been able to achieve perfect symmetry between paying taxes and receiving federal benefits," said Jack Quinn, Gore's chief of staff. "You in Georgia pay tax dollars to build roads in Idaho, and there's no getting around that."

Major League Results

NEW YORK (R) — Results of Major League Baseball games played on Monday

American League

New York	13	Seattle	3
Detroit	3	Cleveland	2
California	5	Baltimore	3
Minnesota	9	Milwaukee	6
Toronto	6	Kansas City	1 (1st)
Kansas City	9	Toronto	7 (2nd)
Chicago	14	Texas	3

National League

Chicago	2	Colorado	0
Cincinnati	6	Houston	1
San Francisco	2	Montreal	1
Florida	7	Pittsburgh	3
Atlanta	6	St. Louis	5
San Diego	2	New York	1 (in 10)
Los Angeles	5	Philadelphia	1

Cowboys blow away Giants 35-0

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys were playing the New York Giants Monday night. But the statement they made was to the San Francisco 49ers:

We're back. And we're better than ever.

With Emmitt Smith, going 60 yards for a touchdown on Dallas' third play from scrimmage and scoring three other times, the Cowboys blew away the Giants 35-0 in a game that wasn't as close as the score indicated.

The only negative for the Cowboys was an Achilles tendon injury to Kevin Smith, their left cornerback, which coach Barry Switzer said was probably season ending.

The prime-time rout allowed the nation — and the 49ers — to see a Dallas team that looked every bit as good as the one that won two super bowls before losing in the NFC title game to San Francisco last year.

The Cowboys led 21-0 at the half, then scored twice more after intermission before sending in the scrubs, winning a lot more impressively than did the 49ers, who beat New Orleans 24-22 Sunday.

"As I told Emmitt, that's the way to start '95, the first time you touch the ball," Dallas' coach Barry Switzer said. "That sort of set the tone for the game tonight."

But the defense and special teams were just as good against a Giants team not ready for such an opponent. Because of injuries, the

Giants' full offence never played together during the exhibition season. Dave Brown was 20 of 34 for 155 yards, much of the yardage meaningless.

Smith, one of the NFL's better cornerbacks, and now the Cowboys need a replacement. Switzer is already on the case, begging owner Jerry Jones to sign Deion Sanders, who helped the 49ers win last year and is being sought by both teams this season.

"If Jerry is around him, I'm going to tell him. It's serious now," Switzer said. "Get Deion. We need Deion now. It ain't showtime anymore. It's serious business."

There was no need for Deion on Monday night.

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Fast-hand Indian champion faces Kasparov



Chess champion Garry Kasparov (left) takes down notes while opponent Viswanathan Anand stops his clock during their match in March 1993 (AFP photo)

Unhappy Baggio only a spectator

UDINE, Italy (R) — Roberto Baggio was relegated to the substitute's bench on Tuesday when Italy named their team for Wednesday's European championship qualifier against Slovenia.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi opted instead for Parma's Gianfranco Zola as a partner for in-form Juventus striker Fagazio Ravanelli in a conventional 4-4-2 formation against a Slovenian team who should prove little threat.

Baggio, the "divine ponytail," has not played for his country since a 2-1 defeat by Croatia last November. The delight of his recall to the squad has receded with the dawning realisation that he is no longer an automatic choice.

Victory in Udine on Wednesday is essential for Italy if they are eventually to overhaul leaders Croatia in Group Four and qualify for next year's finals. Croatia have amassed 19 points from eight games, while Italy have 13, four short of six.

Sacchi, who needs to field a convincing team after a poor series of qualifying results, had kept pundits guessing about his choice, stirring the pot with a hint on Monday that Giuseppe Signori could edge Zola out of place in the line-up.

If Jerry is around him, I'm going to tell him. It's serious now," Switzer said. "Get Deion. We need Deion now. It ain't showtime anymore. It's serious business."

There was no need for Deion on Monday night.

LONDON (R) — Young Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand is counting on a secret weapon to defeat Garry Kasparov in this month's World Class Championships — plenty of cycling.

Anand, reputed to be the fastest player in the world, has spent the last 3½ months secluding himself in Spain training for the most important match of his life.

But every day Anand leaves the long hours of methodical analysis with a spot of cycling to get fit for the grueling 20-game showdown, which starts in New York on September 11.

Anand, 25 and the world's number two, says physical fitness can be almost as important as mental sharpness in a chess match.

"If my chess preparation is much superior to my opponent's, it won't be a question," he told Reuters in an interview.

"But give or take a very small difference, the stamina and how long you're able to concentrate will make all the difference. So depending on how well-matched the chess is, the physical aspect assumes really huge proportions," he added.

Tall and bespectacled, Anand says it will be a strange experience to try to vanquish Kasparov, who has been world champion throughout the Indian's professional career.

"I always tend to defer to him a little bit. He's always the star figure... so it'll be a bit funny that I'm competing directly with him," he says with a chuckle.

But classic chess is a different game and Anand, whose

FIFA discusses World Cup revenue

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA President Joao Havelange met Monday with top television officials to discuss broadcast fees for the next World Cup finals.

The meeting focused on a revised offer from the international television consortium for the exclusive television rights to the 1998 finals. said FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper.

Under a 1987 contract, the consortium agreed to pay FIFA 135 million Swiss francs (\$113 million) for the television rights for the World Cup in France, up from 115 million francs (\$96 million) for the 1994 finals in the United States.

Cooper declined to say how much the latest offer was worth.

A FIFA statement merely said there was a "constructive exchange of views on the implications for television of the increase in the number of matches."

The meeting in Zurich was held prior to next week's official inspections of the World Cup sites in France.

Scharf, president of the European Broadcasting Union — which represents European television companies — attended the meeting, FIFA said.

The meeting in Zurich was held prior to next week's official inspections of the World Cup sites in France.

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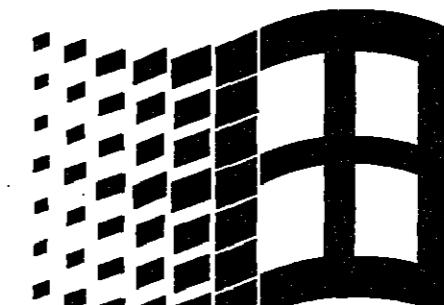
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Chirac says nuclear tests may be cut short

PARIS (Agencies) — France may cut short a planned series of seven or eight underground nuclear tests in the South Pacific that has caused a worldwide storm of protest, President Jacques Chirac said Tuesday.

"If we have the information we need to change over to simulation, before the eight tests, obviously, regardless of the opinions of whomever, I will stop the blasts. My objective is not to carry out eight tests," Mr. Chirac said.

"In any case, we will stop the tests before the date I have indicated, which was May 31," he said in a live French TV interview.

As for when the tests would begin, Mr. Chirac refused to respond to the numerous rumours as to dates, saying simply that the first test would take place "as soon as the technicians consider the time has come."

Mr. Chirac sparked worldwide outcry by governments and nuclear activists alike when he announced in June that the tests would be conducted between September and the end of May.

The conservative president argues the tests, which would end France's three-year-old moratorium, are needed to update the country's nuclear arsenal and develop simulation technology to render the blasts obsolete.

"A country that wants to live in security should not lower its guard... in a very uncertain world," Mr. Chirac said in the interview. He cited the existence of

"thousands and thousands" of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Chirac reaffirmed that at the end of the tests, "France will sign the nuclear test ban treaty" and will support the zero option that would prohibit even small test blasts Washington has sought to continue.

Meanwhile, a French official, who asked not to be named, said the first test might take place at 0600 GMT Wednesday.

There was no official announcement. France has said it will announce tests only after they have been held and not provide the dates in advance.

The government has said only that the series of seven or eight tests would be conducted sometime between Sept. 1 and May 31.

The head of the French Polynesian government, Gaston Flosse, said in Papeete on Monday that France would stage the first blast before the end of the week.

President Jacques Chirac has asked me to join him in Paris after the first test, and I will leave at the end of the week," Mr. Flosse said on radio.

The tests, much condemned by other nations, will be held underground at Mururoa atoll, around 1,200 kilometres southeast of Papeete.

On Monday, four Greenpeace activists staged a "symbolic" raid on Mururoa before being detained by French commandos.

In Papeete, politicians

from around the world, including Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takekura, have held anti-nuclear meetings for the past three days.

Mr. Flosse said foreign anti-nuclear protesters should leave the internal policies of French Polynesia and France alone.

I am more than upset, I am shocked, by the presence of all these foreigners," Mr. Flosse said.

Australians, New Zealanders, Japanese and others come into our territory and intrude in the internal policies of our country," he said.

Mr. Flosse said France did not interfere with the treatment of aborigines in Australia or minorities in Japan because these were "internal affairs."

"So, I say to all these foreigners, stay in your country and don't intrude in our country's policies," Mr. Flosse said.

Four Greenpeace activists, two men and two women, entered the Mururoa lagoon on Monday in two inflatable dinghies, but were quickly captured.

Greenpeace said it had information the first test was imminent and launched the "symbolic" protest because it did not have the resources for a major action.

The four activists aimed to reach Vice-Admiral Philippe Euvrard, head of French naval forces in the South Pacific, to protest against the French nuclear test plans.

Egypt, Israel fail to resolve PoW dispute

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt and Israel failed to resolve a dispute Tuesday over whether Israel should investigate the killing of Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) by Israeli troops during the Arab-Israeli wars.

Egypt has insisted that Israel probe the reports that hundreds of (PoWs) were slain in 1956 and 1967 and punish those found responsible. Israel has said atrocities occurred on both sides and that too much time has passed to prosecute.

"I did not promise (an investigation), but I promised to deliberate what has been suggested," Israel's deputy foreign minister, Eli Dayan, said after meeting Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Musa.

"We will see the appropriate ways to check this issue and to give all the information that we have to the Egyptians," he said.

Mr. Musa did not speak after the meeting, but later told Egypt's Middle East News Agency that Egypt still insisted that Israeli account for the killings.

"There has to be an immediate and official investigation since the issue is serious," Mr. Musa said.

The reports of PoW killings surfaced when a retired Israeli general said he killed 49 Egyptian soldiers in 1956. Israeli historians have since suggested that as many as 1,000 Egyptian PoWs were killed, and that Israeli prisoners were executed as well.

"Of course, we agree that these acts are intolerable, not acceptable, illegal, and against our moral values and against our Jewish values and the values of the state and the army," he said.

The attacks came shortly after the KDP and rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) concluded a temporary ceasefire in U.S.-sponsored talks held in Dublin.

Anatolian also reported that 15 PKK guerrillas were killed in various clashes with Turkish troops in southeastern Turkey, but did not specify when the clashes took place.

Iran denies backing attacks

Iran on Tuesday denied Iraqi Kurdish charges that it backed the PKK attacks in order to sabotage the Kurdish truce in northern Iraq.

The KDP accused Iran and Syria on Saturday of helping guerrillas to infiltrate northern Iraq to carry out attacks and stir up inter-Kurd conflict.

France tightens border controls

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac announced a border clampdown Tuesday as part of security measures aimed at halting a wave of blasts and attempted bombings in and around the French capital.

In his first television interview since taking office in May, Mr. Chirac said he had ordered "very strict" border controls Tuesday in a bid to end the spate of blasts for which he said Algerian radicals were the likeliest culprits.

"It is quite clear that the fact that people can cross the borders easily and without control in either direction is a great facility afforded to terrorists," Mr. Chirac said.

"Therefore, I have asked the government to take very firm steps to impose very strict controls along all the borders of our country."

The reinforcement of border controls comes despite France's commitment to European integration and its nominal inclusion in the group of seven nations which agreed to scrap all border controls earlier this year as part of the so-called Schengen accords on the free movement of people.

France suspended its involvement for six months in the seven-nation pact on the eve of its implementation July 1, citing immigration

problems from non-Schengen nations.

But Mr. Chirac said given the threat of violence, and that fact that armed Islamic fundamentalists were being unearthed across European Union and Schengen nations, France may have to review its long-term commitment to the Schengen pact.

If the situation does not improve and if our partners do not take steps to impose genuine controls at the external borders of the Schengen area, we will see what France has to do, he said.

Earlier Monday, a dozen members of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the organisation Mr. Chirac said was most likely to be responsible for the bombings, went on trial in France's Schengen partner Belgium.

And France is still seeking the extradition from Sweden of Algerian Abdul Karim Debeche wanted in connection with the first in the rash of explosions which have rocked Paris this summer.

That bomb, placed in an underground train, killed seven people and injured more than 80 at the Saint-Michel station on July 25. Three weeks later, a bomb exploded near the Arc de Triomphe on Aug. 17, injuring 17 people. In both cases small gas canisters were used.

Kurdish official urges Turkey to attack PKK

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — A Kurdish official in northern Iraq said in remarks published on Tuesday that Turkish troops should chase rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) out of his province.

"This is why we want to see Turkish soldiers here. Let us fight together with Turkish soldiers against the PKK..." Abdul Aziz Tayyip, governor of northern Iraq's Dohuk province, said in an interview carried by Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency.

Last March 35,000 Turkish soldiers crossed the border to rid the area of PKK guerrillas, who use mountain camps in northern Iraq to launch attacks against Turkey.

Mr. Tayyip was an outspoken critic of the Turkish operation and at the time repeatedly told journalists Turkey should protect its own border rather than cross into northern Iraq.

The six-week operation drew strong criticism from Ankara's Western European allies.

But KDP spokesman Saadet Dizayee in Ankara told Reuters there were currently no plans to bring in Turkish troops.

"We have held meetings with Turkish authorities and this is not on the agenda at

present," Mr. Dizayee said by telephone.

"But we are coordinating and liaising with Turkish authorities and if necessary some type of specific operation could happen," he said, stressing the KDP had managed to take control of much of the area.

Almost two weeks ago the PKK started attacking Iraqi Kurdish positions in the region held by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of the two main factions in northern Iraq.

The attacks came shortly after the KDP and rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) concluded a temporary ceasefire in U.S.-sponsored talks held in Dublin.

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Jordan, Yemen review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra). — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Tuesday received a message from Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by visiting Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi in the presence of Minister of Supply Adel Qudah, who in the past two days held talks with the Yemeni minister on Jordan-Yemeni cooperation in supply affairs.

At the meeting with the prime minister discussions covered bilateral cooperation and ways by which Yemen can benefit from Jordan's experience in



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on right). Also present at the meeting were the Tuesday meets Yemeni Minister of Supply and Minister of Supply Adel Qudah (left) and Trade Mohammad Afandi (second from Yemeni ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo)

stocking food supplies and in subsidising prices for limited income groups. Sharif Zeid expressed

Jordan's readiness to pursue cooperation and to do all it can to reestablish solidarity among Arab countries. He also expressed Jordan's willingness to provide Yemen with expertise.

Arafat and Peres start marathon talks today for accord by Friday

Settler stabbed to death in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will start talks in Egypt on Wednesday to try to seal a deal on extending Palestinian self-rule, officials said.

The talks will start late Wednesday and go on until Friday in the Egyptian Red Sea coastal town of Taba, Israel and Palestinian officials said.

"The two leaders will try to resolve the last outstanding problems in order to sign the accord on Sept. 18 in Washington," Arafat advisor Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

The issue of an Israeli army withdrawal from the town of Hebron is one question which is yet to be resolved, he said. Israel wants to maintain security control of the town where 400 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians. In February 1994 a settler gunned down 29 Muslims at prayer in the Tomb of the Patriarchs there.

Mr. Abu Rudeina said the 6,500 Palestinians still being held in Israeli jails posed another problem.

A senior Israeli official told AFP: "The aim is to seal the accord before the Sabbath by marathon negotiations." The Sabbath starts at sundown on Friday.

"This includes the Hebron settlements," he added.

"We have a serious problem with the security of the settlers and at the same time we have to honour our commitments and allow the Palestinians to organise elections," said Mr. Peres, who toured Hebron with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday.

Meanwhile, a Jewish settler from England was stabbed to death and his American wife seriously wounded Tuesday in a West Bank attack the army blamed on Palestinian militants.

The pregnant woman, lost her baby as a result of the pre-dawn attack in the isolated West Bank settlement

Israel is upset over diplomatic boycott of Jerusalem bash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's government was in a huff Tuesday over the diplomatic boycott of Jerusalem's 3,000th "birthday party," especially the no-show of the U.S. ambassador.

Ambassadors from 70 nations were invited to Monday night's ceremony, but the foreign ministry said only 17 envoys showed up — mostly from smaller countries.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk was among those who stayed away from the opening of Jerusalem 3000, a 17-month celebration marking the 3,000th anniversary of King David's conquest of Jerusalem.

Spokeswoman Aliza Goren said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was unhappy that the ceremony had been "abandoned" by diplomats, including Mr. Indyk. Israeli newspapers described Mr. Rabin as angry over the snub.

"It's not new," Mr. Goren said. "We know the policy of most countries towards Jerusalem. Of course our aim is to come to a situation where in the final arrangement the world will recognise Jerusalem as our capital."

Ambassador Indyk said he was busy Monday with a Labour Day barbecue and a benefit for an Israeli women's shelter.

The United States government did not boycott the Jerusalem 3000 festival and is not boycotting the Jerusalem 3000 festival," he said.

Mr. Indyk said the embassy sent a senior cultural affairs official to the ceremony at Israel's parliament, and that there would be "ample opportunities" for the United States to participate in festivities in the coming months.

Syria criticised the festival and welcomed the decision by Western countries to boycott the extravaganza.

COLUMN

Thai king recovers from heart surgery

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej is recovering well from treatment to relieve constriction in a coronary artery, the Bureau of the Royal Household said. The Bureau, in a statement obtained by Reuters Tuesday, said King Bhumibol's condition had shown "remarkable improvement." His general condition appeared good and his heart was functioning normally, the statement said. "Due to the remarkable improvement of His Majesty's heart ailment, the medical team has shifted from intravenous to oral medication for His Majesty," the statement said. The statement did not say when the king would leave hospital. King Bhumibol, 67, had similar angioplasty treatment in March. He was admitted to hospital Sunday after showing some abnormal coronary symptoms, the bureau said earlier.

Mother to die for killing child for eyes, kidneys

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladeshi court has sentenced a woman to death by hanging for killing her three-year-old daughter and removing her eyes and kidneys for sale, police said Tuesday. They said the grisly incident occurred in the north Bangladesh district on Rangpur in September last year. Police arrested Bilkis Begum and recovered the corneas of her child, Farzana Bobby. The kidneys were not found. With questions whether kidneys could be removed outside specialised clinics still unanswered, police lodged a case against Mrs. Begum at a Rangpur court and presented the corneas as evidence. Judge Soumendra Sarkar gave his verdict Monday, saying Bobby was strangled to death and subjected to posthumous barbarity. "Begum is thereby sentenced to death," he said. Lawyers said Mrs. Begum could appeal the verdict. Police said they believed Mrs. Begum was involved with illegal limb traders but they had no clear answer why she turned on her own child.

U.K. to review ban on gays in armed forces

LONDON (AP) — Britain is to review its ban on homosexual men and women in the armed forces. The Ministry of Defence said in a statement that a team of civil servants and representatives from the army, navy and air force will take evidence from military personnel of all ranks and visit the armed forces of several other countries. The team's report will be presented to the government next January. The move follows a ruling in June by the High Court, the second highest court after the Law Lords of the House of Lords, in a case brought by four homosexuals dismissed from the armed forces. The High Court panel of four judges upheld the right of the ministry under British law to dismiss them. But one of the judges, Sir Simon Brown, urged a review of the policy, saying "the tide of history" was turning against the ban. Britain and Turkey are the only two NATO alliance countries which operate a total blanket ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. British Defence chiefs have argued that the ban is essential for the maintenance of military discipline. Peter Tatchell of the homosexual pressure group Outrage claimed that despite the review, the ministry in fact wanted to keep the ban and he called for what he termed a truly independent inquiry. "We know that in the past Ministry of Defence research on this subject has tended to ask very loaded questions," he said. "Service personnel have been quizzed about whether they would mind sleeping in a bunk or sharing a shower with a homosexual." The Ministry of Defence is terrified that the ban will eventually be overturned, whether by the House of Lords or by the European Court of Human Rights, and that it will face multi-million pound law suits from dismissed homosexual personnel," he said.